The Death-Stench Creeps
GYO
Junji Ito
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

The Death-Stench Creeps
GYO
Junji Ito

About the artist

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his 1987 debut story *Tomie*, Ito has become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Drifting Classroom*, *Orochi*, *Cat Eyed Boy, Scary Book*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*, *Panorama of Hell*, *The Bug Boy*, *Living Corpse*, *The Red Snake*), as well as the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published in English in the United States to critical acclaim, including *Uzumaki, Tomie* and *The Museum of Terror*. *Uzumaki* was nominated for an Eisner Award and was made into a live-action film.

CONTENTS

1/*The Death*-Stench of the South Seas...5
2/*The Death*-Stench in the Air...37
3/Going Ashore...55
4/Shark Attack...73
5/Flight...91
6/The Death-Stench Creeps...109
7/Testimony...127
8/Infection...145
9/The Death-Stench *Invades, Part 1*...163
10/The Death-Stench *Invades, Part 2*...181

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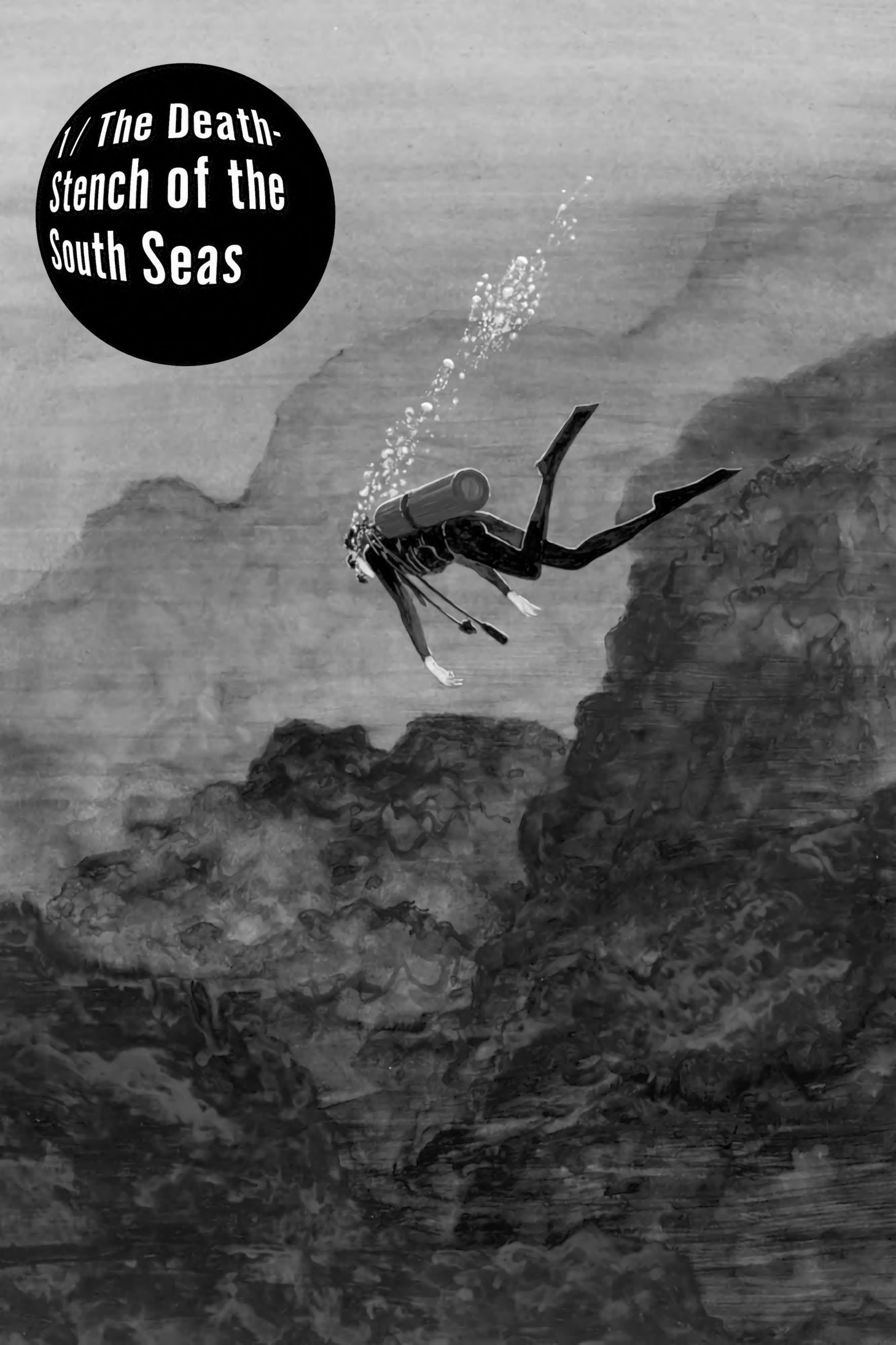
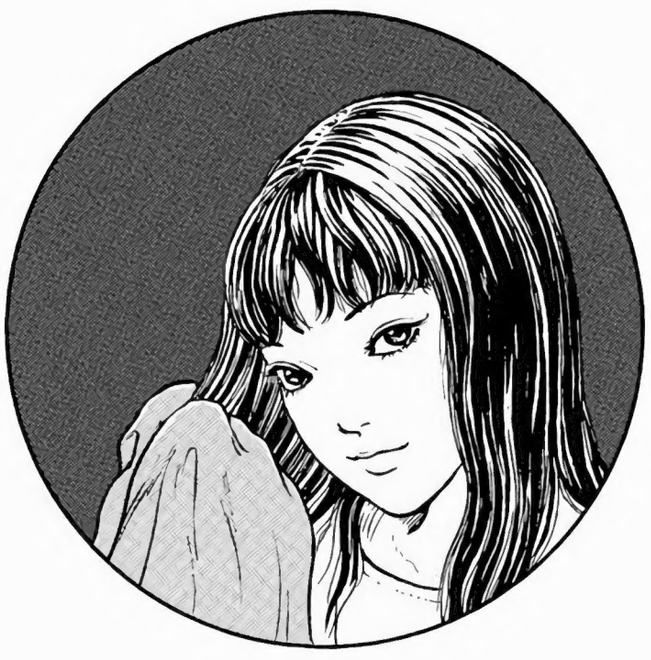
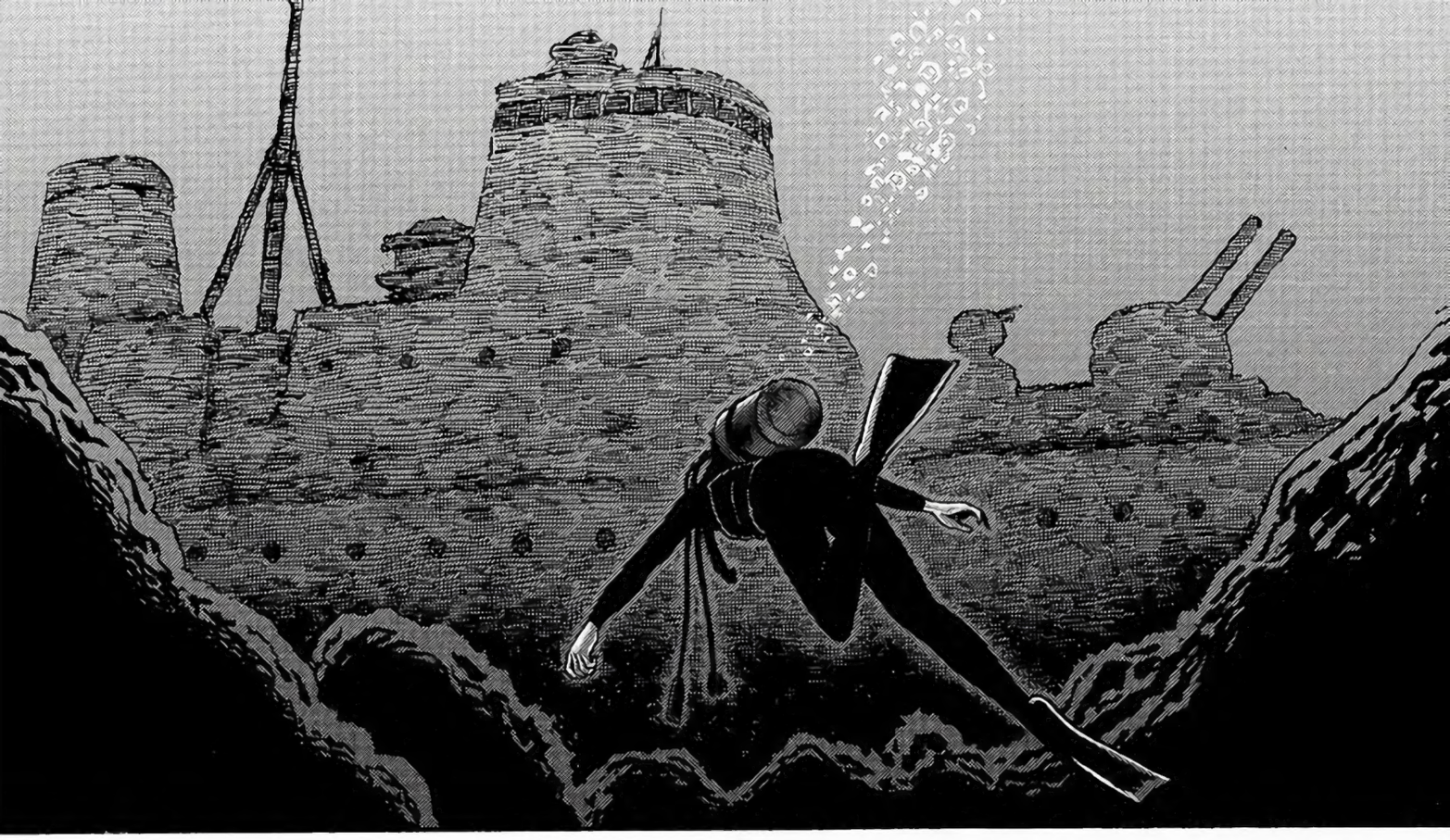
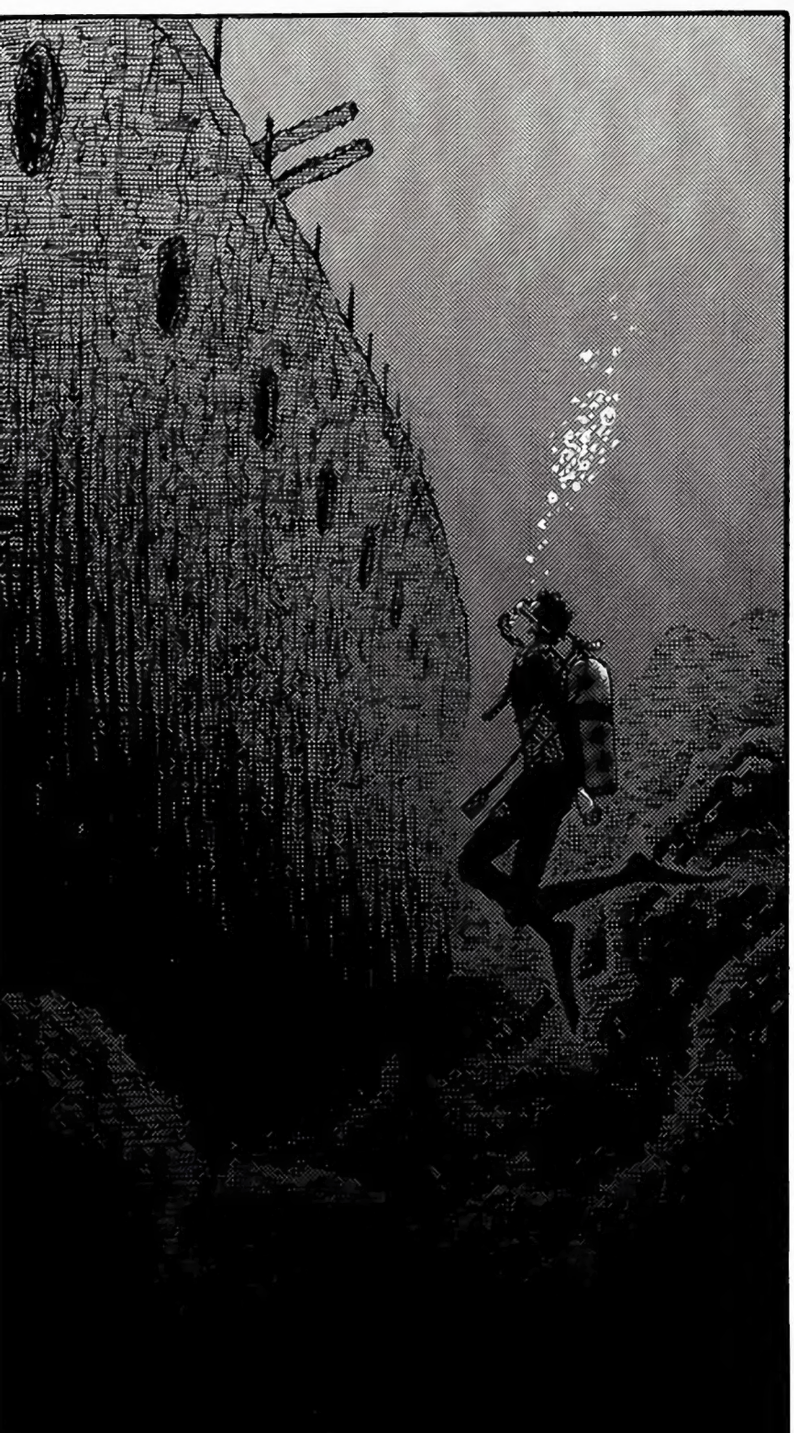
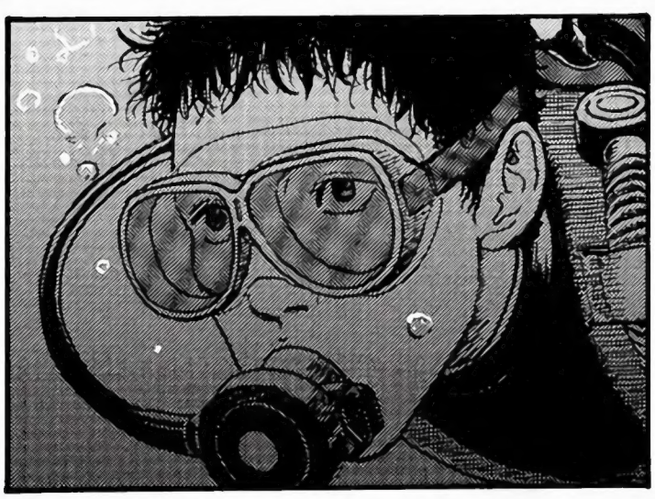
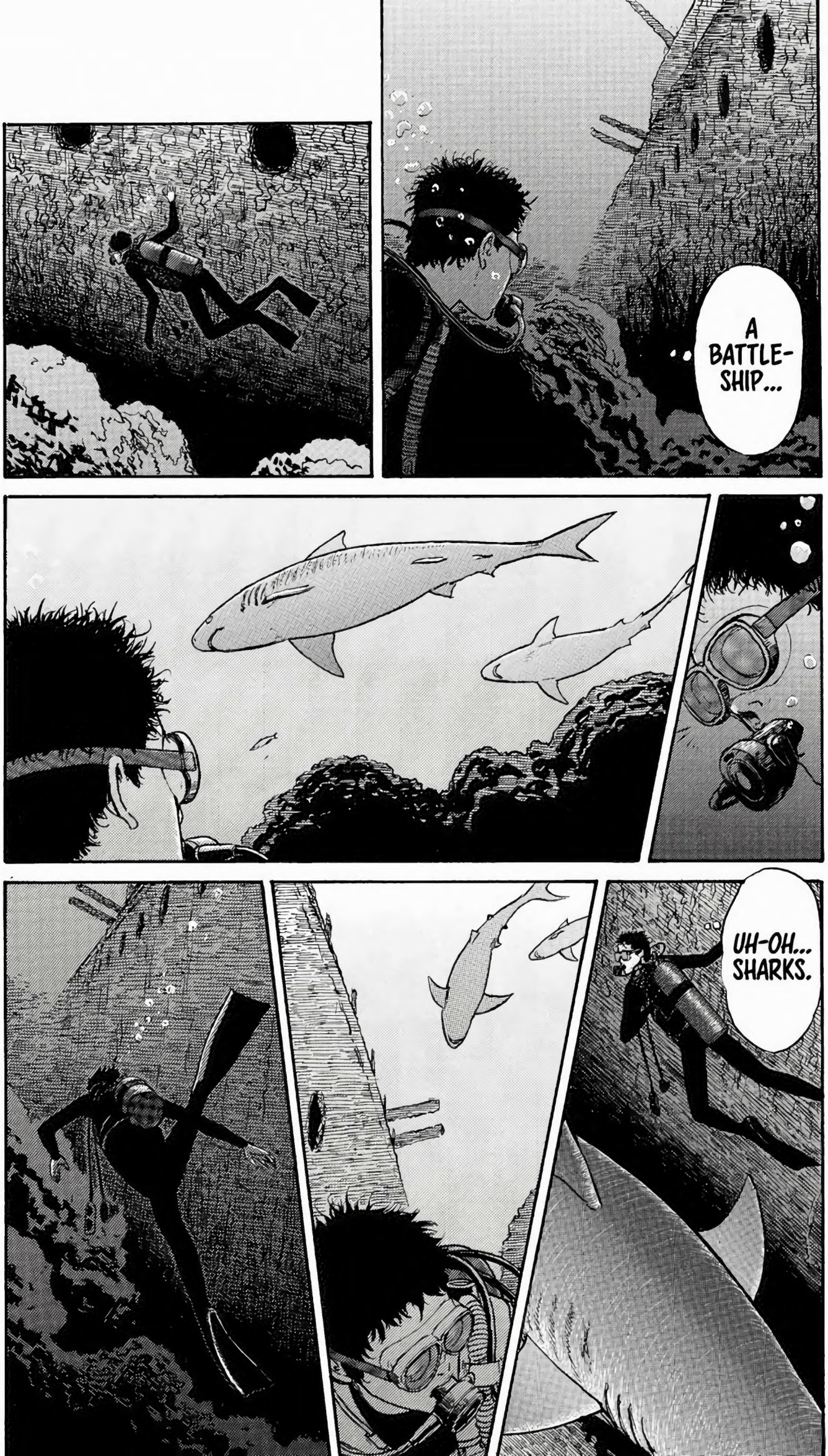

// The Death-Stench of the South Seas



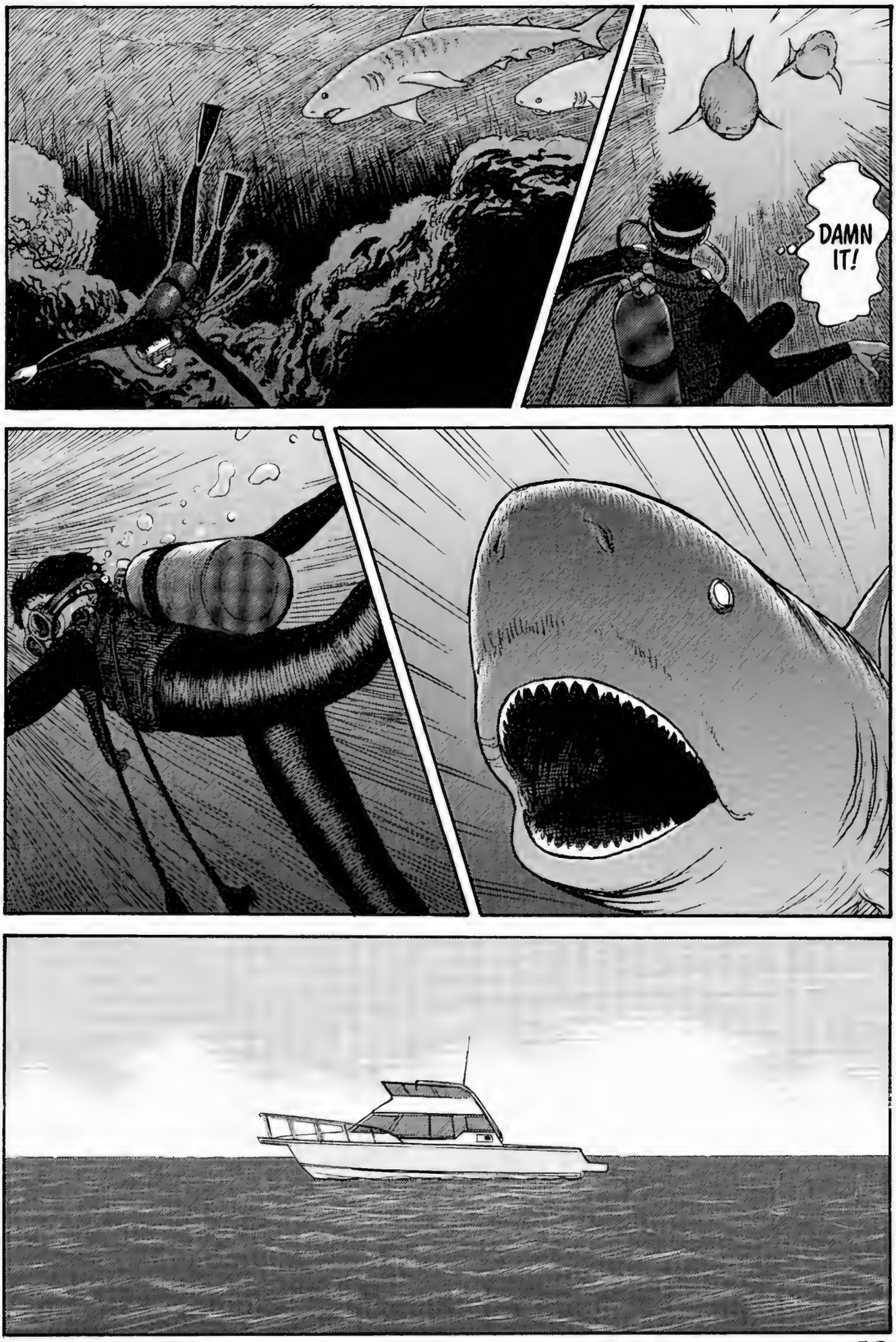




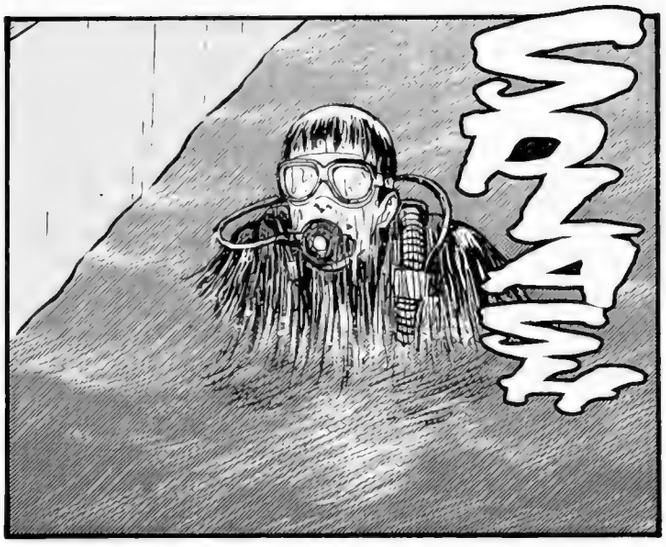


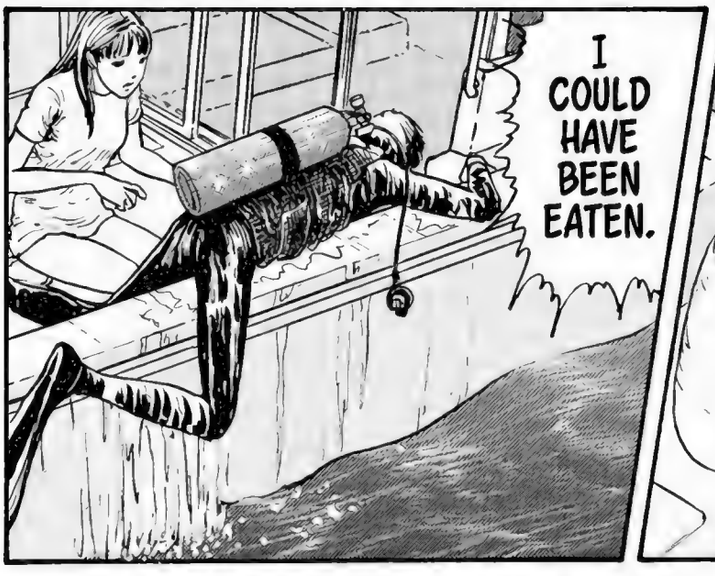

A BATTLE-SHIP...
UH-OH... SHARKS.

BLLLRRRRBB
HM?
BLLLLLRRB
BUMP
AGH!
BBLBLLRR BBBB
AH !?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ...?


DAMN IT!

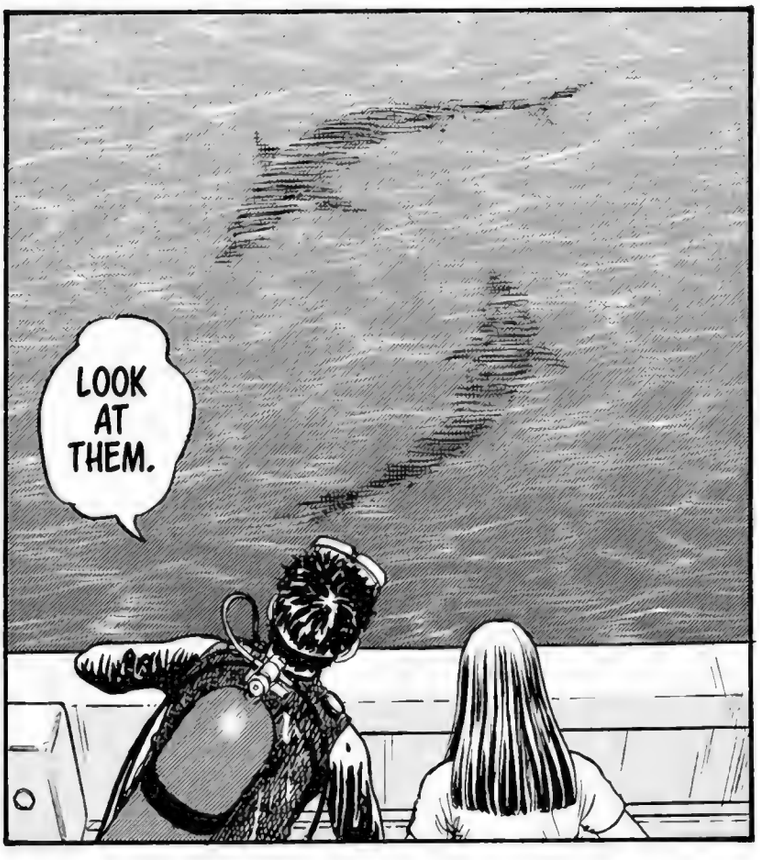
KAORI! GIVE ME A HAND!


SPLASH!

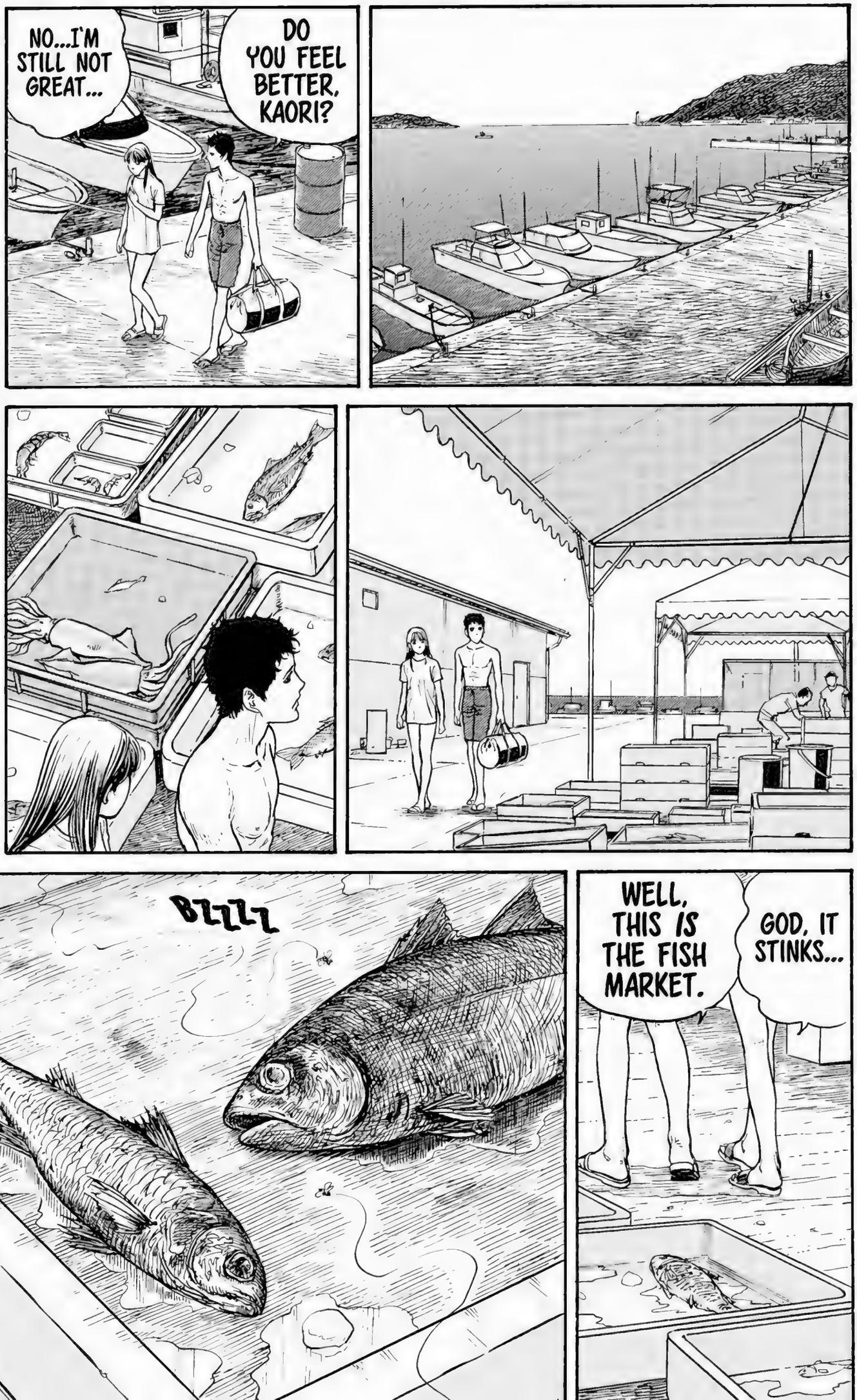

I COULD HAVE BEEN EATEN.

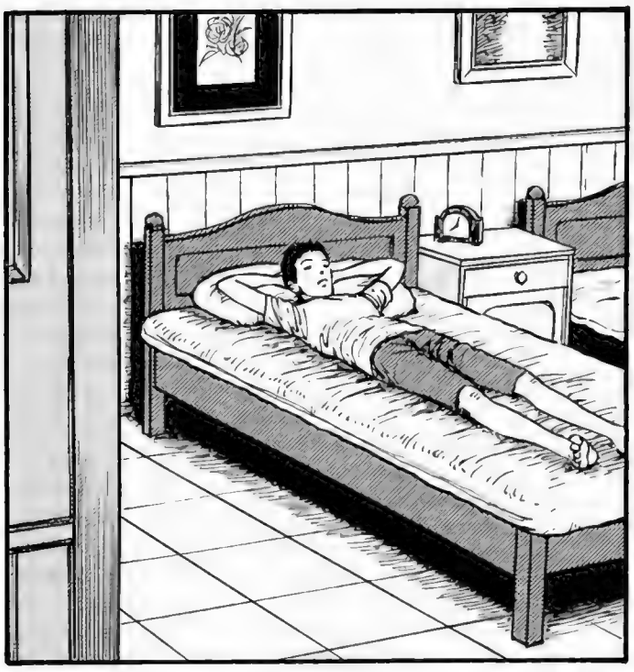
WHAT'S WRONG, TADASHI?
SHARKS! THERE'S SHARKS HERE!

YOU BASTARDS!! TRY AGAIN TOMORROW!

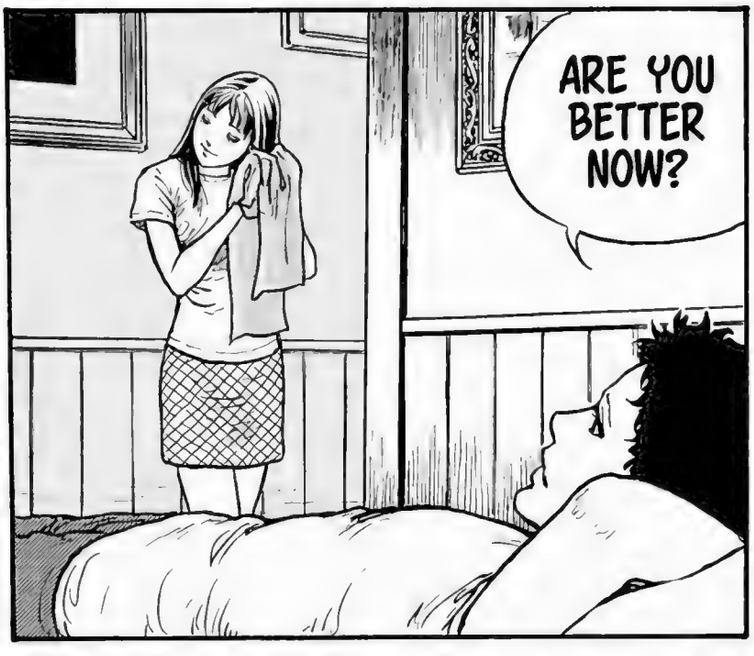

LOOK AT THEM.

JESUS... I NEARLY GOT KILLED...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE HOUSE.
--BUT IT ZOOMED PAST ME LIKE A TORPEDO. I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT. BUT IT DIDN'T MOVE LIKE A FISH.
BEFORE THE SHARKS CAME, THIS THING NEARLY HIT ME. IT WASN'T BIG--
SURE, LET'S GO BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'VE GOT A SENSITIVE NOSE.
THE SMELL OF THE SEA IS MAKING ME SICK.
NOT REALLY.


NO...I'M STILL NOT GREAT...
DO YOU FEEL BETTER, KAORI?
BZZZZ
WELL, THIS IS THE FISH MARKET.
GOD, IT STINKS...

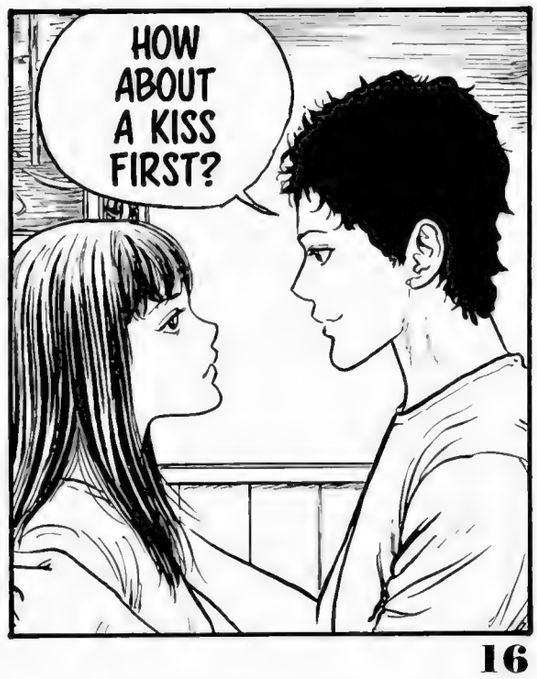


YOU SHOULD TAKE A SHOWER, TOO.
UM-HM.

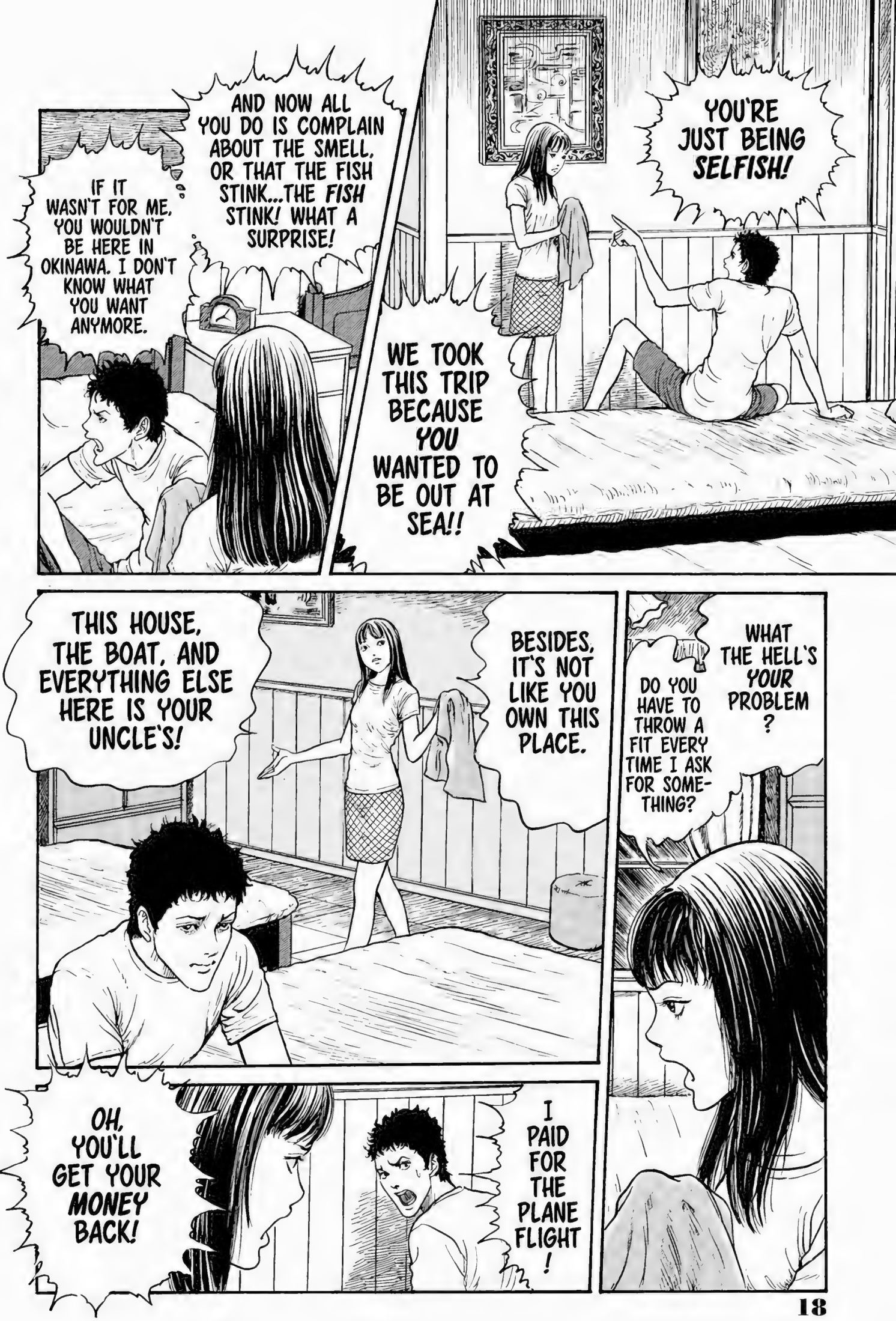

ARE YOU BETTER NOW?

HUH?

NO WAY! NOT UNTIL YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH.
I DON'T WANT TO SMELL YOUR BAD BREATH.


HOW ABOUT A KISS FIRST?

I HAVE BAD BREATH?
HAAH
JUST A LITTLE...
BUT YOU DIDN'T MIND KISSING ME BEFORE.
YES I DID. I JUST PUT UP WITH IT EVER SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT.
YOU JUST --
BUT I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE.
SO BRUSH YOUR TEETH FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
BUT I DO BRUSH MY TEETH... TWICE A DAY ...
ARE YOU SAYING I HAVE TO DO IT EVERY TIME WE KISS?
IF WE KISS TEN TIMES A DAY THEN I HAVE TO BRUSH TEN TIMES?
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
GIVE ME A BREAK! I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOUR NEUROSES!!


IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IN OKINAWA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ANYMORE.
AND NOW ALL YOU DO IS COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SMELL, OR THAT THE FISH STINK...THE FISH STINK! WHAT A SURPRISE!
YOU'RE JUST BEING SELFISH!
WE TOOK THIS TRIP BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO BE OUT AT SEA!!
THIS HOUSE, THE BOAT, AND EVERYTHING ELSE HERE IS YOUR UNCLE'S!
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU OWN THIS PLACE.
WHAT THE HELL'S YOUR PROBLEM?
DO YOU HAVE TO THROW A FIT EVERY TIME I ASK FOR SOMETHING?
I PAID FOR THE PLANE FLIGHT!
OH, YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY BACK!

I'M GOING BACK TO TOKYO! I'M LEAVING TONIGHT!
FINE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SUCH AN ASSHOLE!
WILL YOU LISTEN TO YOURSELF ?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE?
SLAM
THEN DO IT!
IT'S GETTING DARK. YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO FLY BACK TO TOKYO!
THERE'S SNAKES OUT THERE!!
HEY, KAORI! WHAT ABOUT YOUR THINGS?!

SHAAAA
DAMN IT...
...
KAORI!
KAORI! WHERE ARE YOU?
HM ?
WHAT WAS THAT ?
WHAT'S THAT SMELL ?

AIEEEE!
AH?
WOW... IT REALLY REEKS...
WHAT'S WRONG, KAORI?
THERE YOU ARE.
I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER TOWN FOR YOU.
SHFFFFFF
WHAT? IS IT A SNAKE?
TADASHI...THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE GRASS...

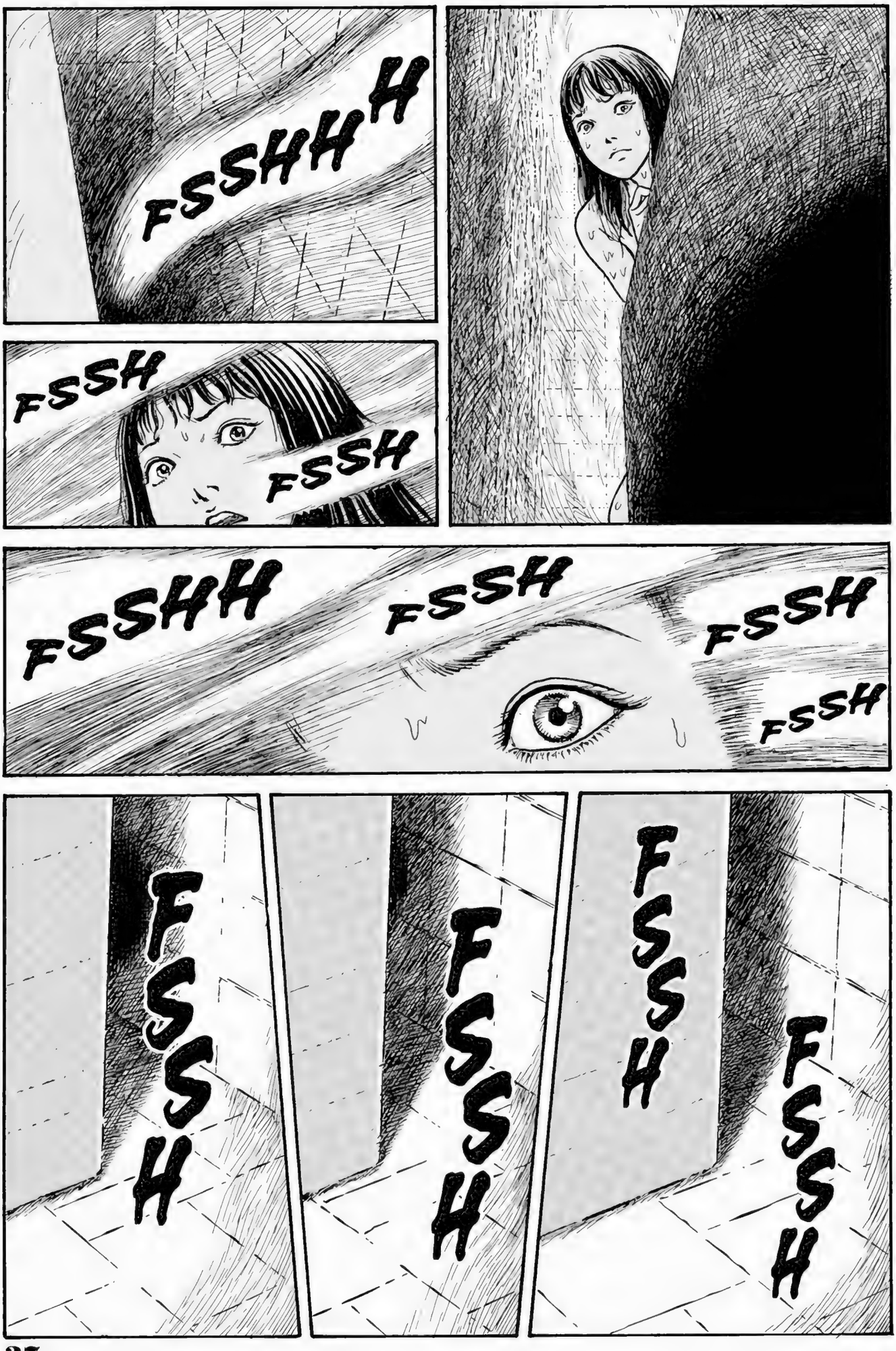
AAGGH!
SHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
HUH !?
WSH WSH WSH WSH
WHAT WAS THAT!?
IT'S NOT A SNAKE... A CAT MAYBE?
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHAT IS THIS SMELL !?
NO KIDDING. IT'S SOMETHING PUTRID... ROTTEN GARBAGE...
COME ON... LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM...

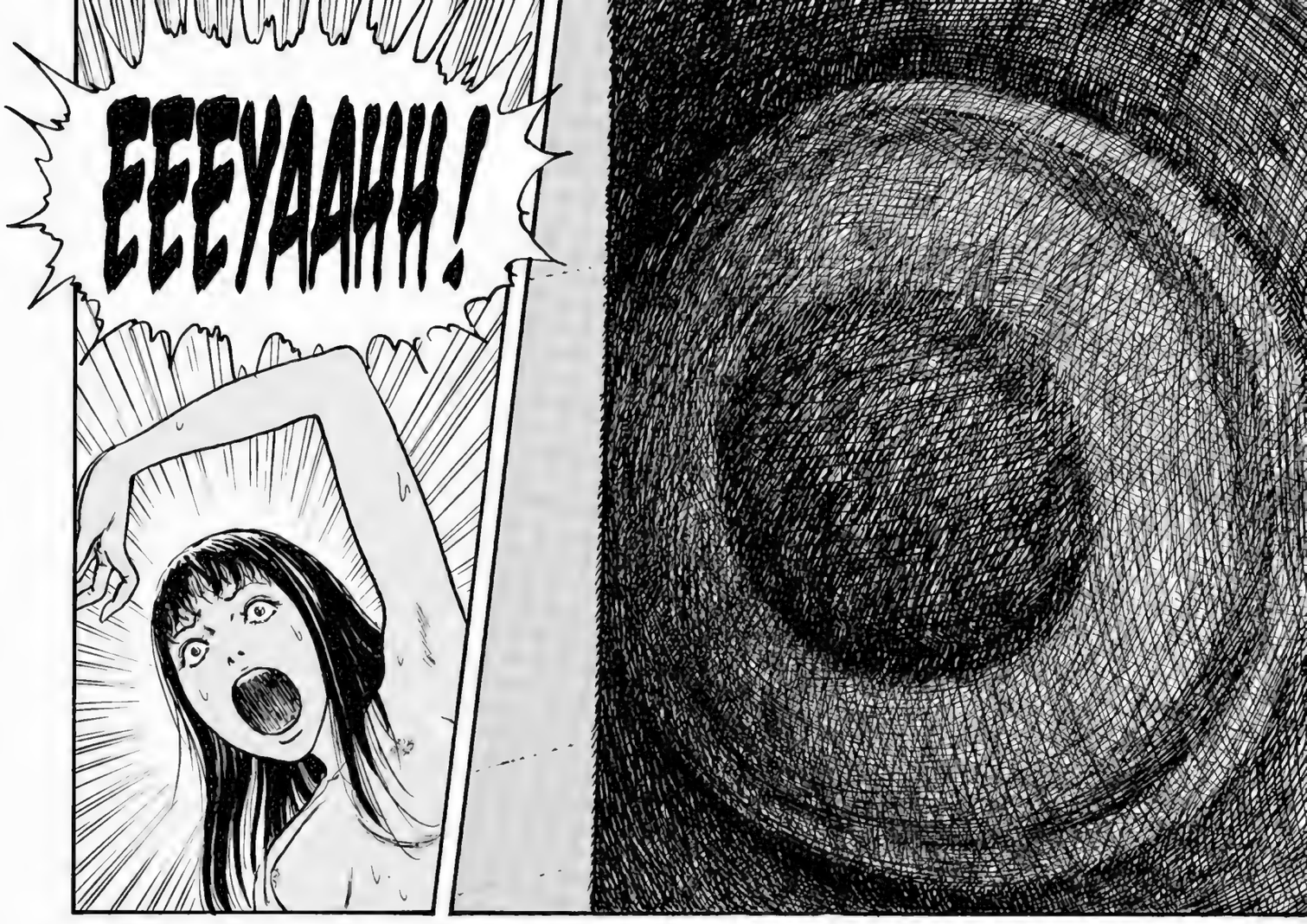
FSSHHH
...
...
I CAN STILL SMELL IT!
IT ISN'T GOING AWAY.
TADASHI!

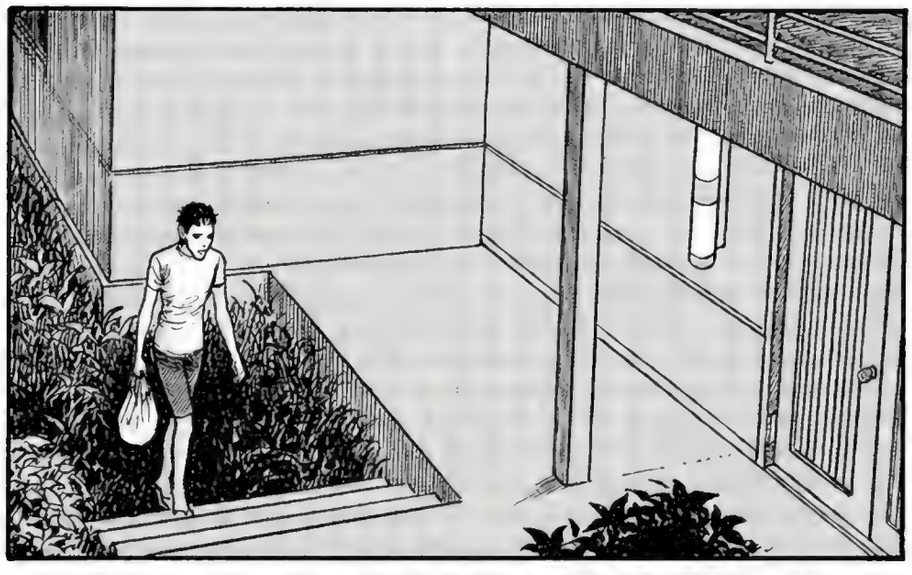
I KNOW.
IN FACT... IT'S NOT JUST STICKING TO US...
IT SMELLS HERE, TOO...
IT'S INSIDE THE HOUSE...
TADASHI! DO SOMETHING!!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THIS SMELL...
OKAY? I'M GOING TO TAKE ANOTHER SHOWER...
...WHILE YOU GO AND BUY AIR FRESHENER! ALL RIGHT?
GO BUY SOME DIS-INFECTANT! SOME AIR FRESHENER! ANYTHING!
...GIVE ME A BREAK.

SNIFF...
...
THAT'S FUNNY... IT DOESN'T SMELL OUTSIDE...
DID THE WIND BLOW IT AWAY?
IT'S GETTING STRONGER !!
ARGH!
WHAT IS GOING ON!?

FWICH
BUMP
HUH !?
THUP
THUP
FSSHHH
WHAT IS THAT ...?
WHAT ...


FSSHHH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSHH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH


EEEYAAHH!



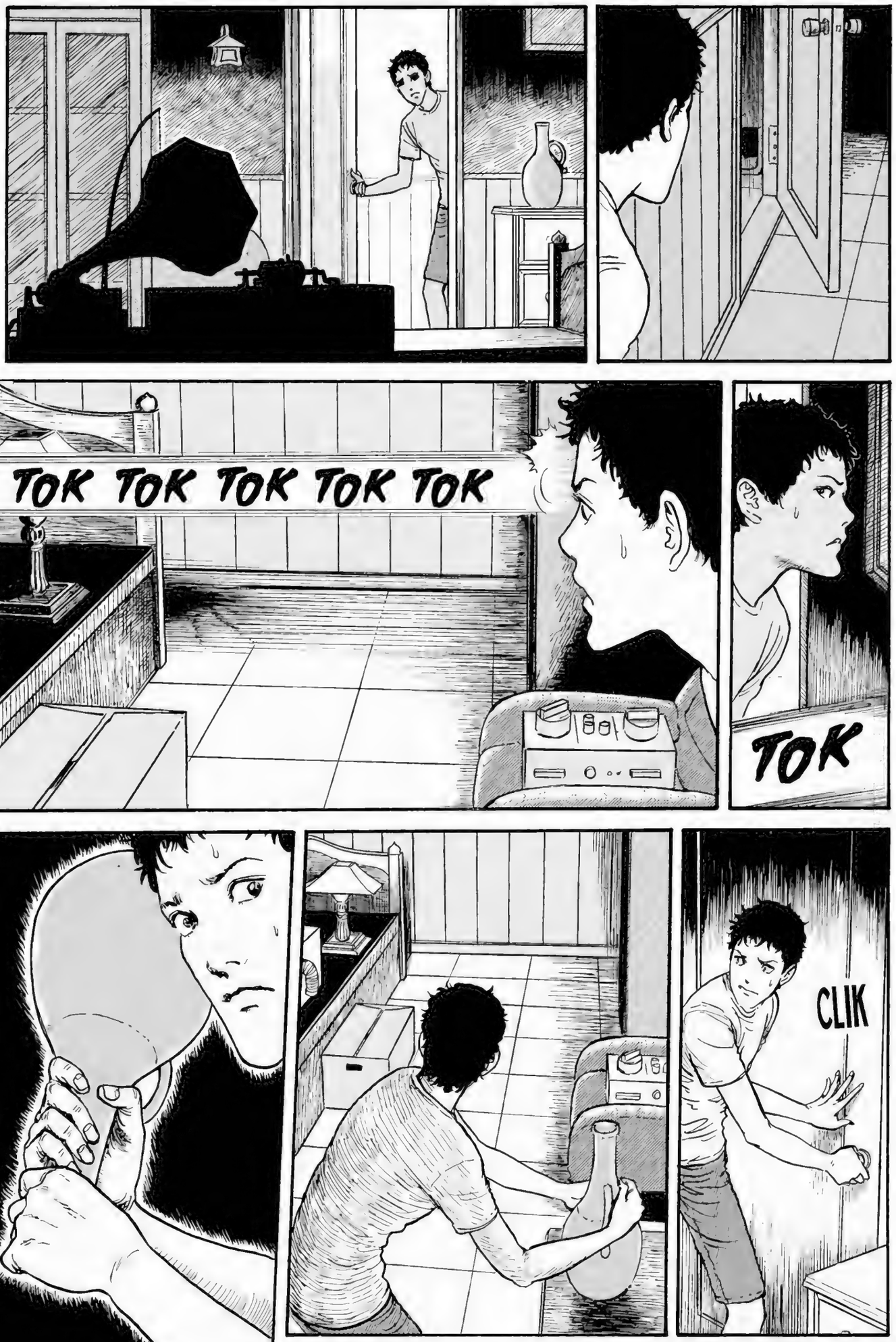
CLIK

WHAT... IS THIS STENCH !?
KOFF KOFF
AAGH!
PSSH
KAORI! WHERE ARE YOU!?
HEY... KAORI?
I'M GETTING DIZZY...
...

KAORI!
KAORI!
WAKE UP!
SLAP
SLAP
KAORI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
FSSSHHH
FSSSHHHHHHHHH
FSSSHHH
HUH?

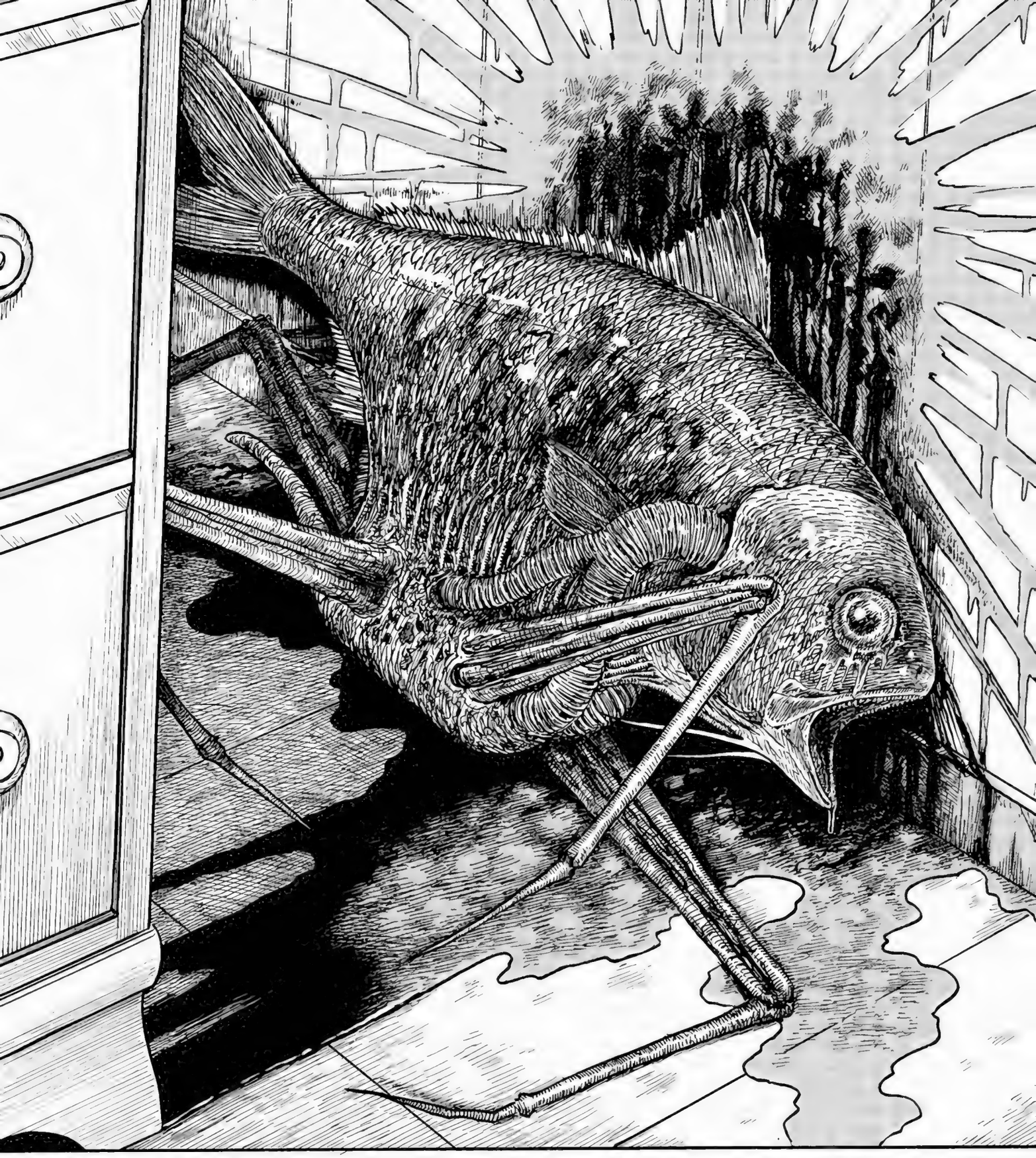
FSSSSHHHHHH
WHAT IS THIS SOUND?
FSSSSHHH
TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK
BUMP
FSSSSSSSSHHHHHH
FSSSSSSSSHHHHHH
FSSSSSSSSHHHHHH
FSSSSHH

FSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH
FSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH
FSSSHHHHH
TOK TOK TOK TOK
!
FSSSSSSHHHH
BUMP
!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A CAT...


TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK
TOK
CLIK

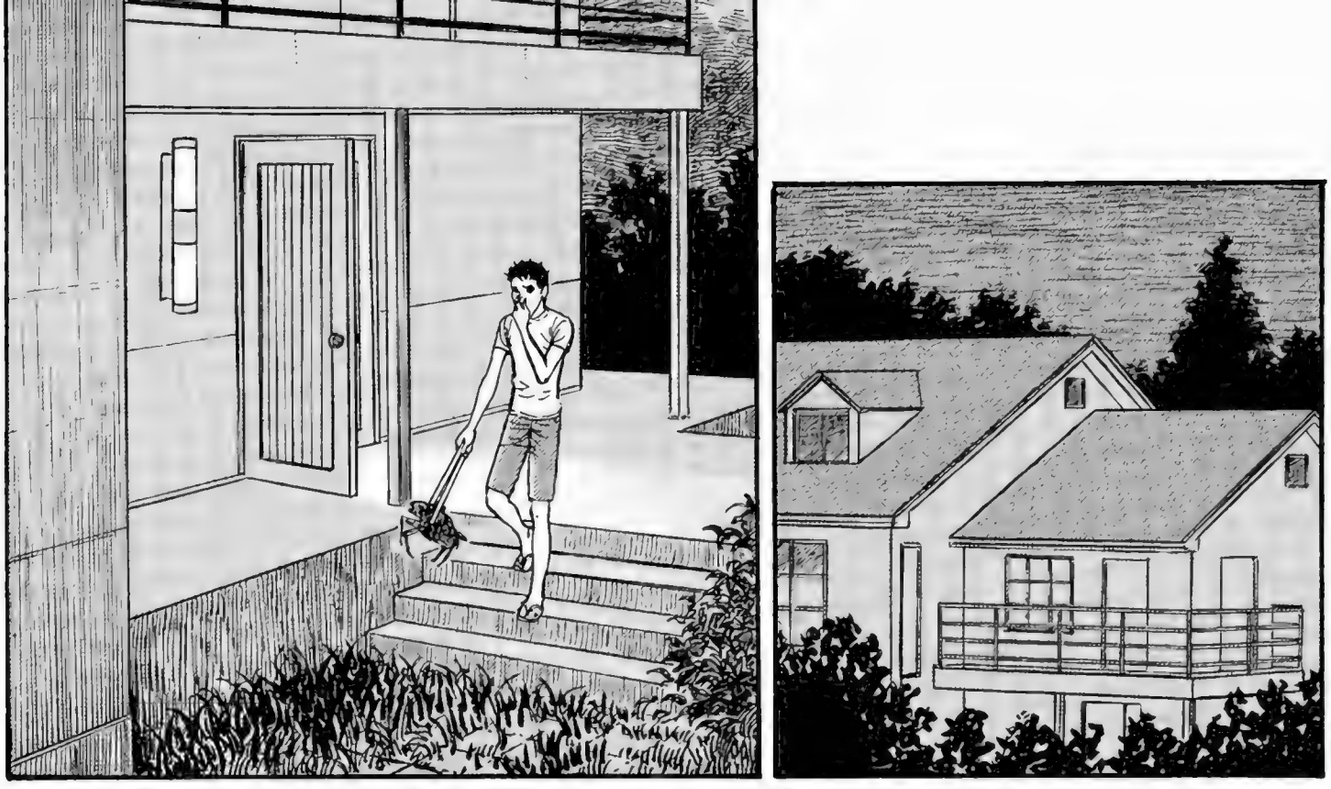
TOK
FSSH
CRAASHHH
AAGH ?!

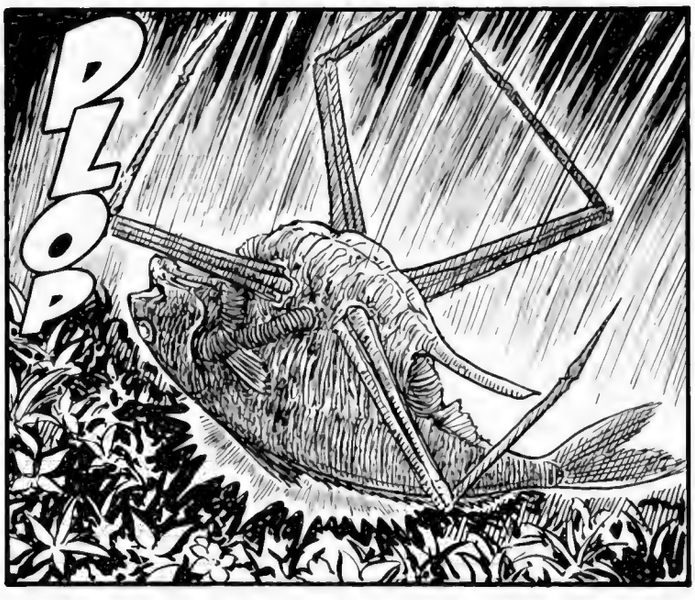
BAM
WSH
CLUNK
PHEW ...
CLUNK
HUH !?

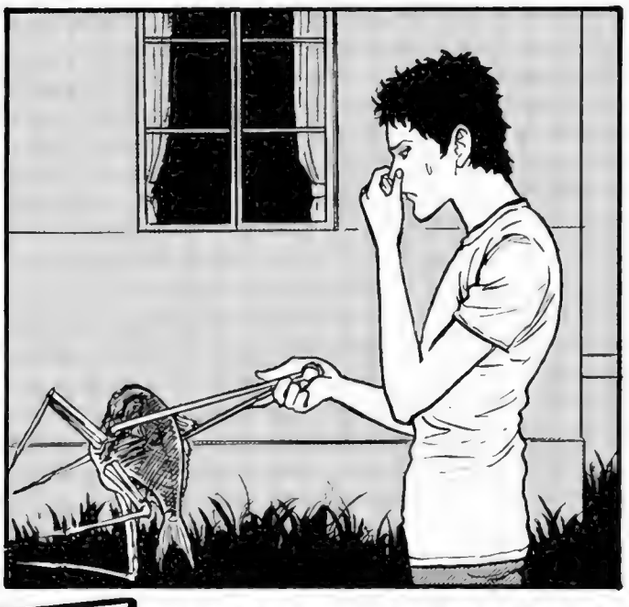


...IS THIS!?
WHAT THE HELL...

2 / The Death-Stench in the Air




PLOP



THUNK

A FISH? BUT IT HAS LEGS...
WHAT IS THIS?
FSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
TWIK
TWIK
IT SMELLS TERRIBLE. SO THIS IS WHAT CAUSED IT.
FIRST THINGS FIRST...I HAVE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS SMELL.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT... MAYBE IT'S AN UNDISCOVERED SPECIES...
TADASHI ...

YEAH, DON'T WORRY.
REALLY!? SO IT'S GONE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I TOOK CARE OF IT.
TADASHI... A MONSTER! IT WAS A MONSTER!
KAORI! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
THE SMELL... GET RID OF THIS SMELL.
I WILL. JUST HOLD ON, AND I'LL GET RID OF WHAT'S CAUSING IT.
SHWIP
THUP
THIK
THIK

DAMN, IT'S STILL TWITCHING ...
OH!
TWIK
TWIK
POP
THIS'LL SEAL IN THE SMELL.
OKAY ...
WHAM
I'LL FINISH IT OFF!
PAP
SHWIP
LOOKS LIKE THAT DID IT...

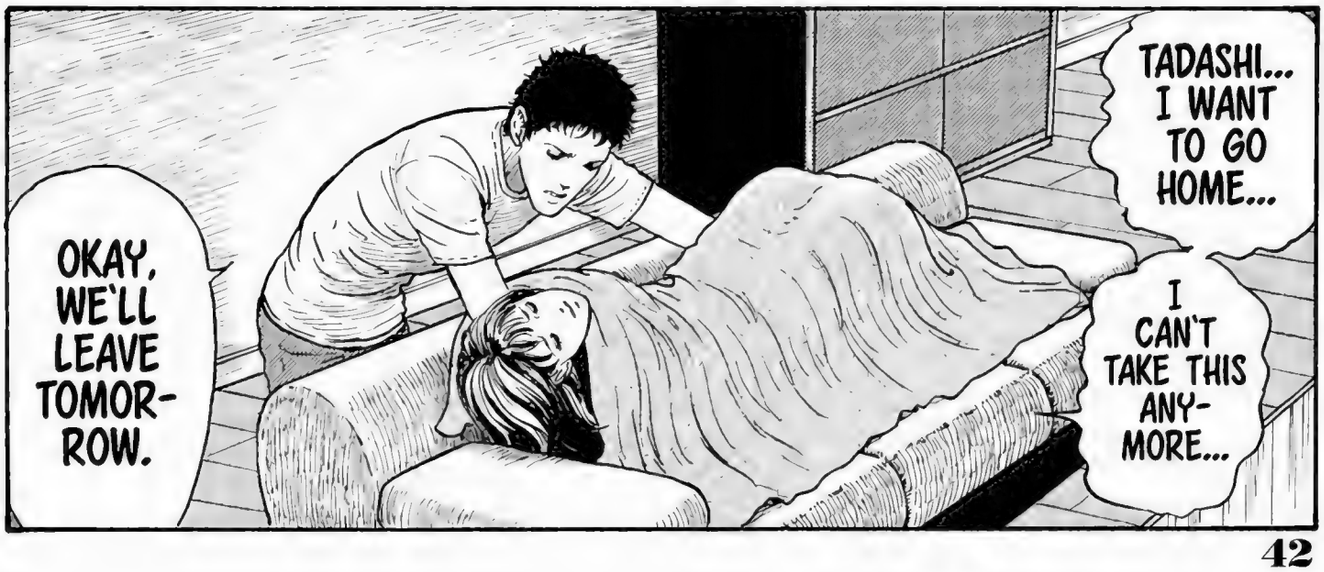
FSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

ALL RIGHT, THEN.
PHEW ...

SHE'S GOT A TEMPERA-TURE.

KAORI ...

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THE WINDOWS OPEN AND THE STENCH WILL...
KAORI, IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.


OKAY, WE'LL LEAVE TOMOR-ROW.
TADASHI... I WANT TO GO HOME...
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE...

T-TADASHI ...
TADASHI ...
WHAT IS IT, KAORI?
UHH...
UHH... NNN...
THE SMELL... I CAN'T TAKE THE SMELL...
CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT?
THE SMELL'S GONE.
NO, IT'S NOT. DID YOU REALLY GET RID OF IT!?
NO, BUT I SEALED IT IN A GARBAGE BAG.
WHY WON'T YOU THROW IT OUT!? THE SMELL IS LEAKING THROUGH!!

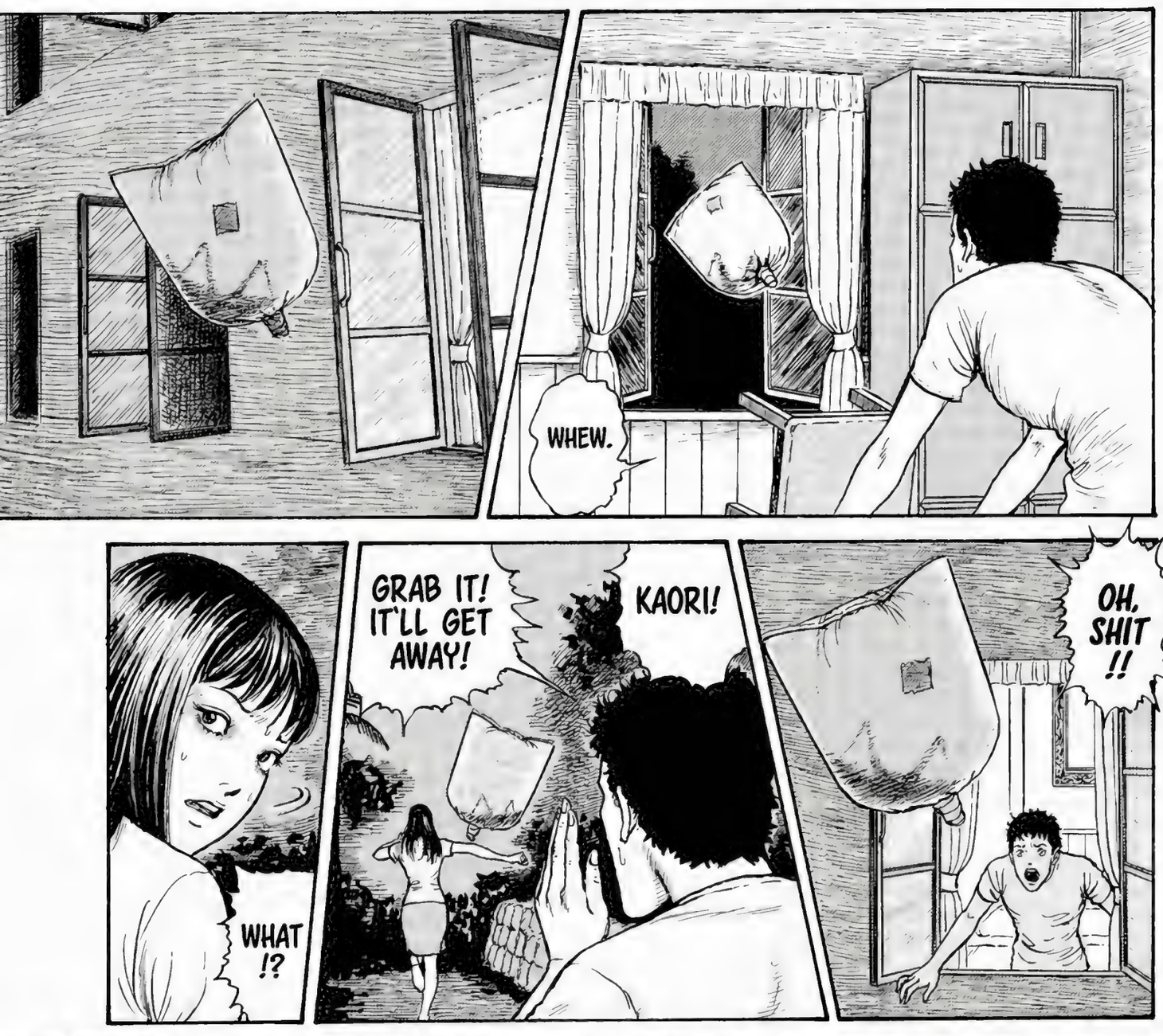
WE MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW SPECIES, LIKE THE LOCH NESS MONSTER, OR THE *TSUCHI-NO-KO*. THIS COULD BE A BIG DEAL.
I DON'T THINK SO... BESIDES, I CAN'T JUST TOSS IT OUT.
...
GET RID OF IT... ***NOW!!***
DON'T BE STUPID!! YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT THING!!
I'LL MOVE IT FARTHER AWAY...
HUH !?
WHAT...? IT'S GONE!!

DID SOME CAT GET IT?
DAMN ...
THAT'S STRANGE... WHERE'D IT GO!?
AIEEE!
KAORI!!
SLAM

WHAT
!?
POP
FSSSSHHHHH

FSSSSHHH
THAT'S THE GARBAGE BAG.
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HELP!
KAORI !!
EEYAHH!
FSSSSSHHHHHHHHHH
FSSH

TWIK
TWIK
FSSHHH
OW!
DAMN IT!!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?
BAM
SHAAAA

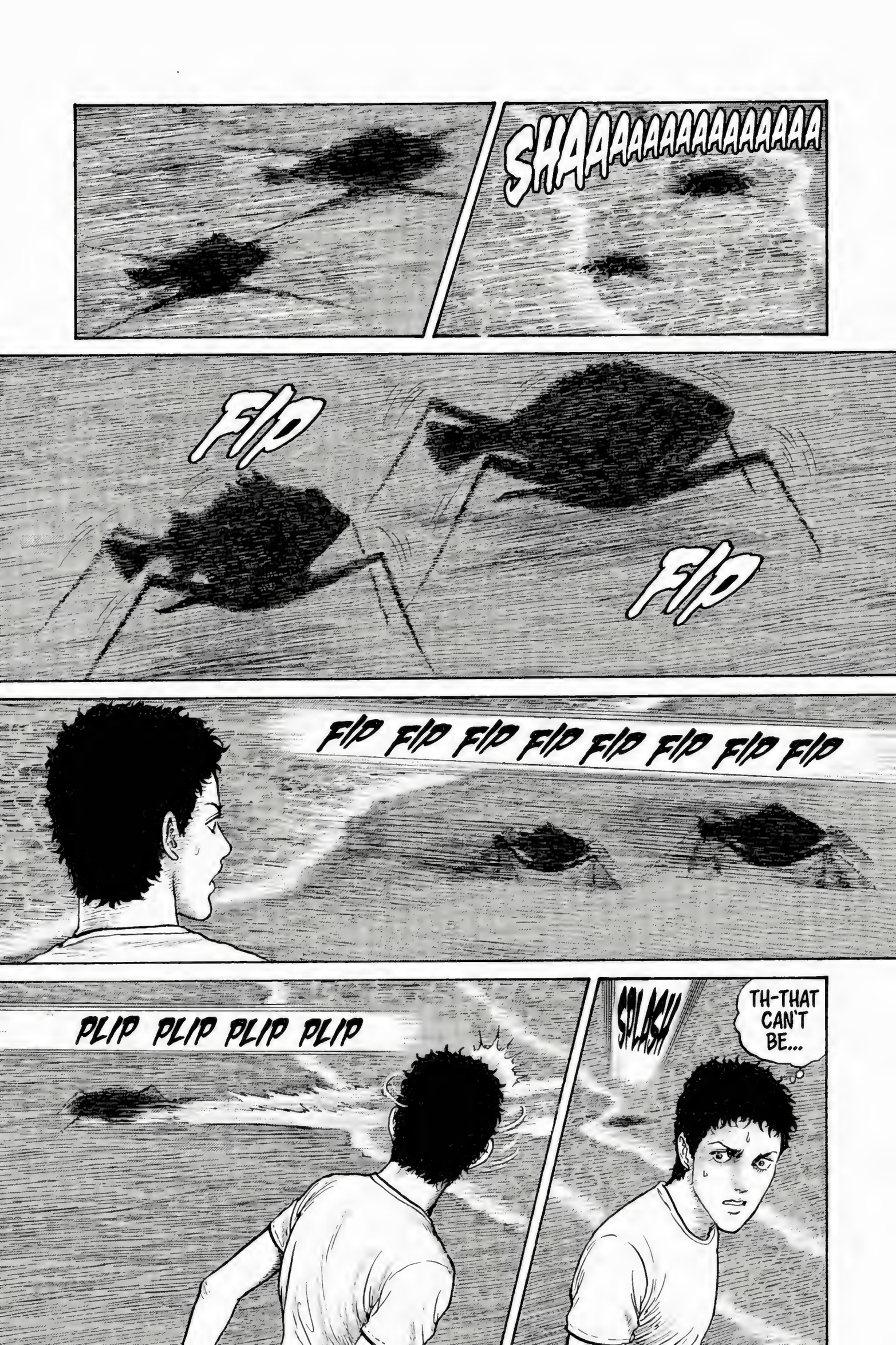

WHEW.
OH, SHIT !!
KAORI!
GRAB IT! IT'LL GET AWAY!
WHAT !?

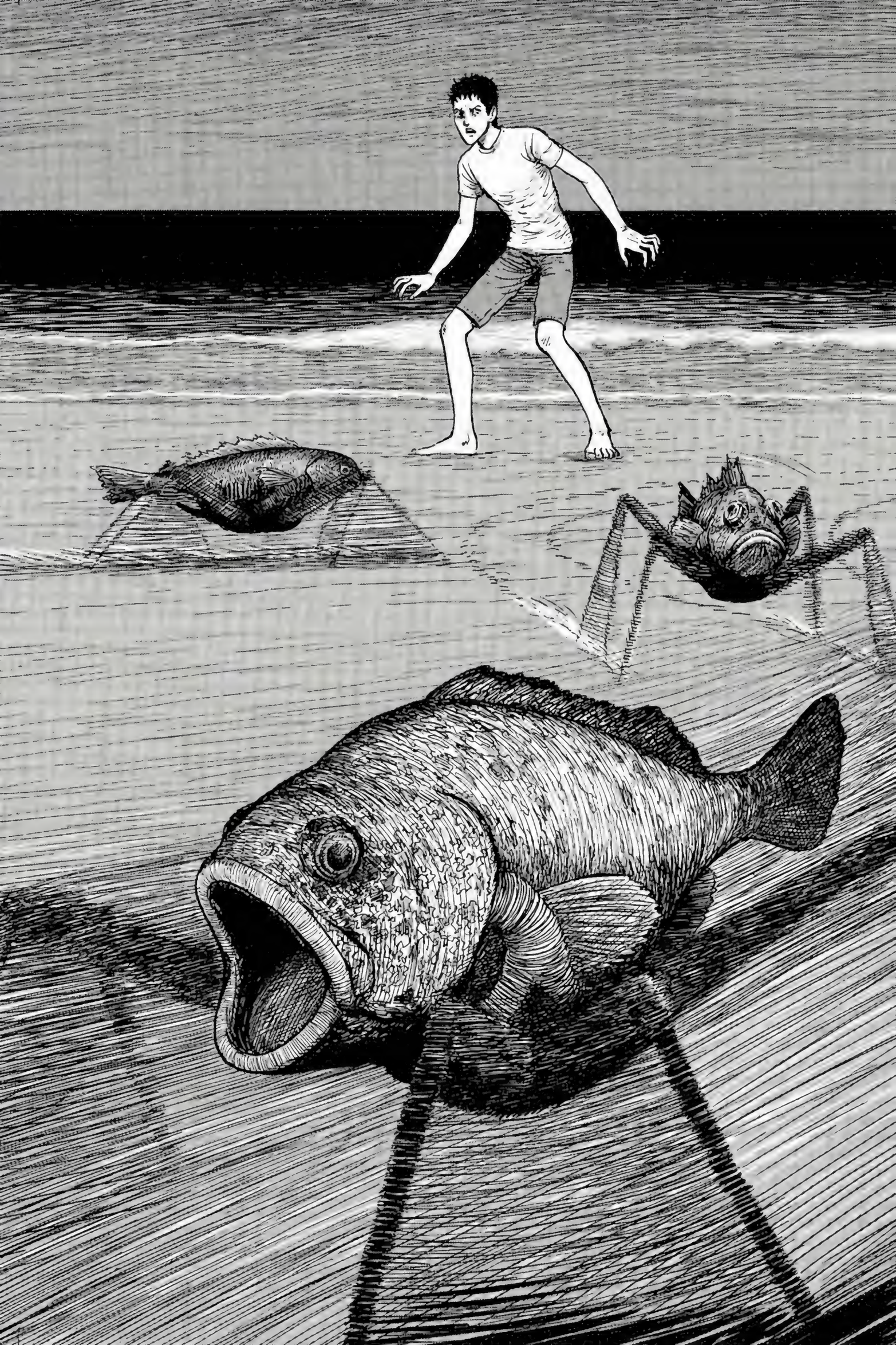
FSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHH
EEEEEEYAHHHH!

EEYAHH!
KAORI !!
FSSSHHHHHH
HELP ME, TADASHI!!
SHAAAA
NO!!
KAORI! ARE YOU OKAY?

IT'LL JUST TAKE A MINUTE.
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE!? I HAVE A FEVER!!
STAY HERE, KAORI... I'LL GO GET IT.
DAMN... IT'S GONE OUT TO SEA.
SHAAA
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT? I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
FORGET ABOUT THAT STUPID FISH!

IT PROBABLY FELL INTO THE SEA...BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM...
MAYBE SOMEDAY IT'LL WASH UP ON SHORE...
IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE IT ANY-MORE.
SHAAA
SPLISH SPLISH
SHAAAAAAAAA
SHAAAAAAAAA
...
SHAAAAAAAAA
SHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA


SHAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
FIP
FIP
FIP FIP FIP FIP FIP FIP FIP FIP
PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP
SPLASH
TH-THAT CAN'T BE...

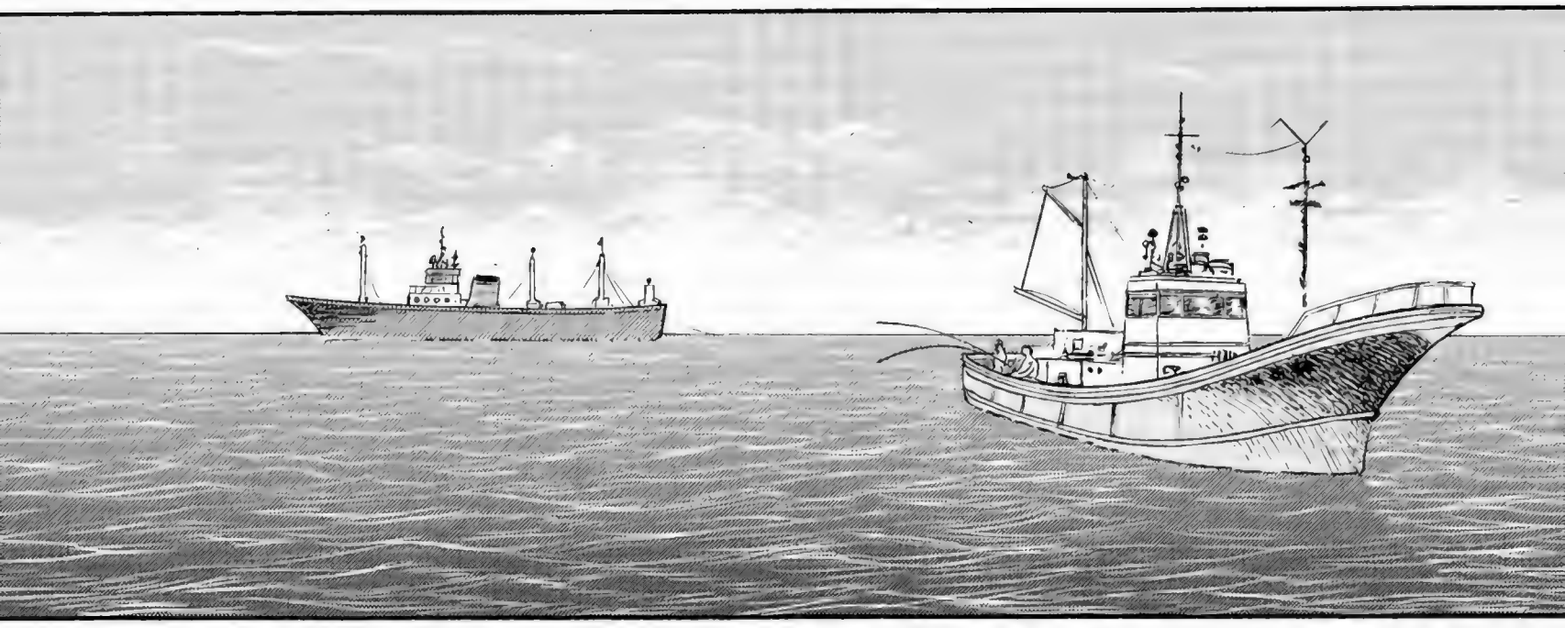


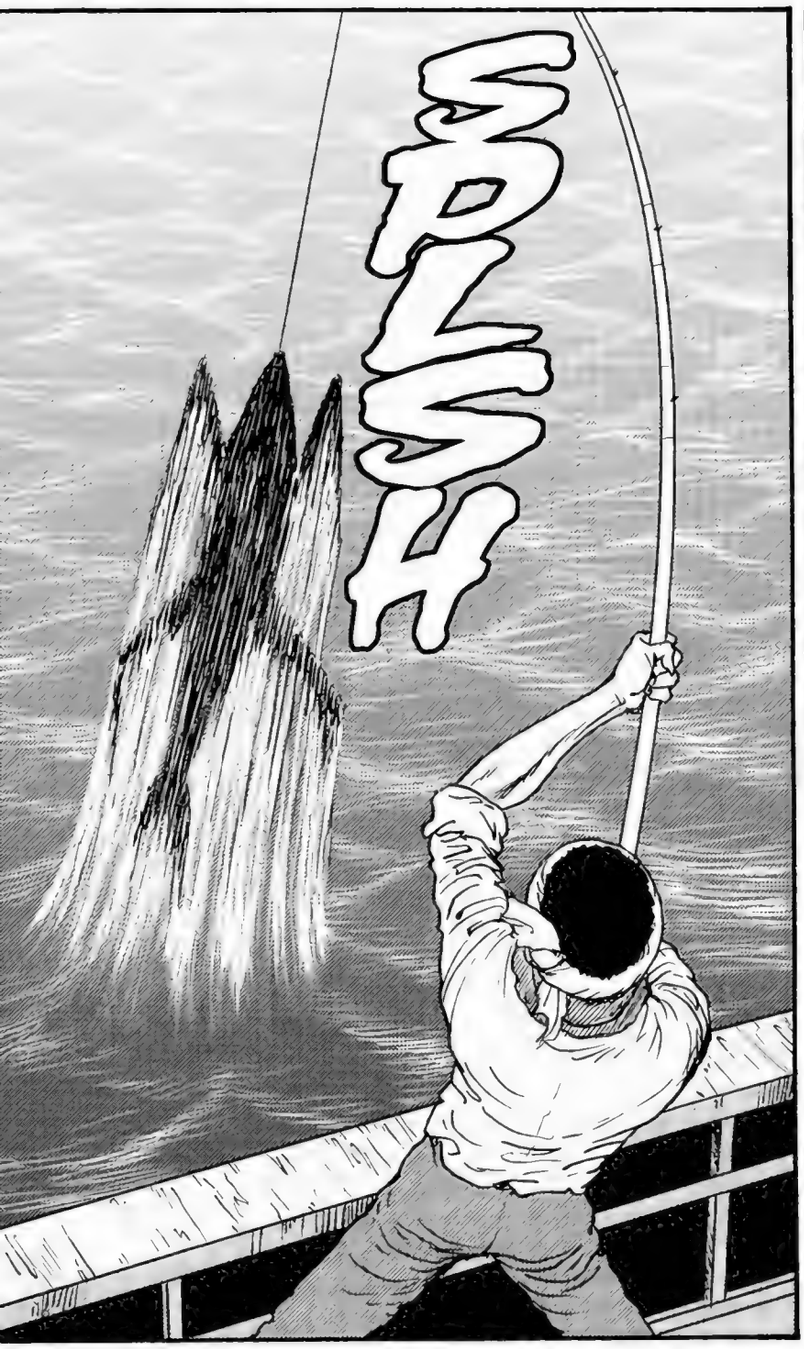
3 / Going Ashore
AGGH!
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH

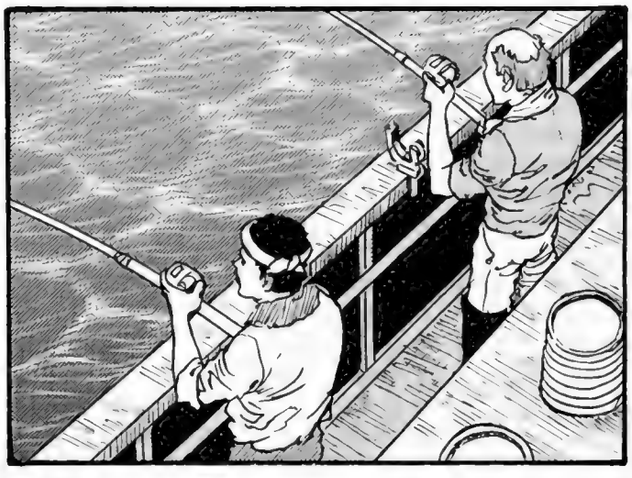
STOP!
SO THERE'S MORE OF THEM...
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT...
WHERE'D THEY GO!?

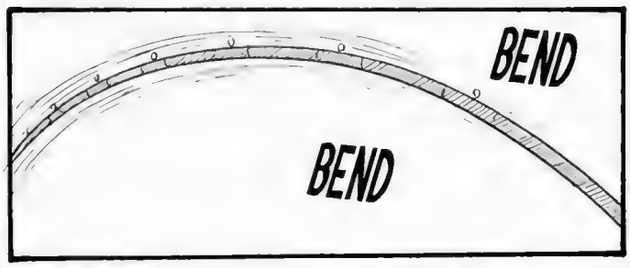
SHHAAAAAA
THEY WERE RIGHT HERE LAST NIGHT.
REALLY, OFFICER. I'M SERIOUS!
KAORI, TELL HIM WHAT YOU SAW!
IT'S NOT A PRANK.
"FISH WITH LEGS?" I OUGHTTA HAUL YOU IN FOR PULLIN' PRANKS LIKE THIS!
YOU PROBABLY JUST SAW SOME CATS OR DOGS.
HMPH

THANKS TO YOU, HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM!?
KAORI!
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT ME AT ALL!?
AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO DRAG ME OUT UNDER THE SUN?
I STILL HAVE A FEVER, YOU KNOW!!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
COME ON!!
H-HEY... KAORI, ARE YOU OKAY?
STAGGER



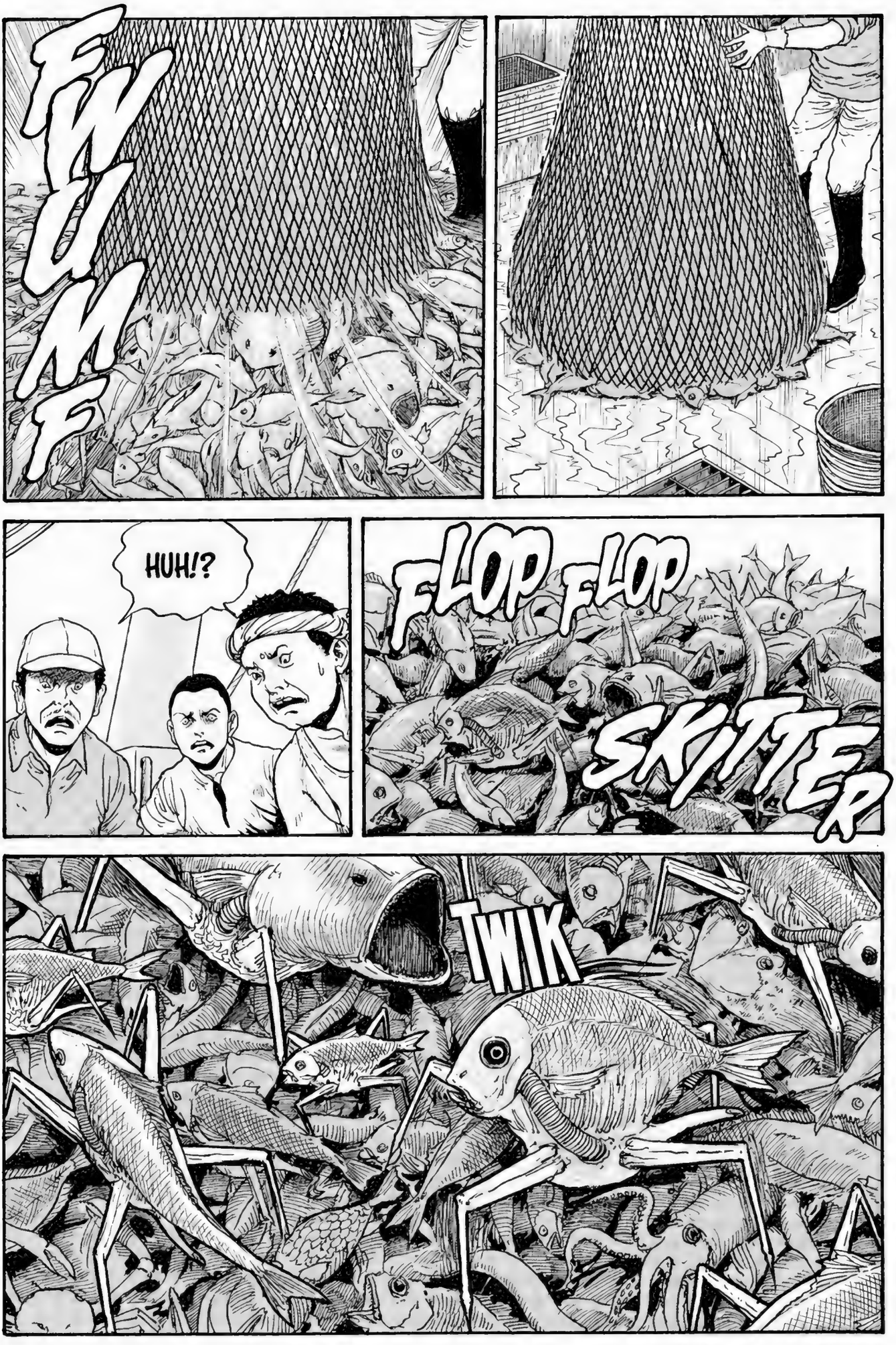

SPLASH




BEND
BEND

I GOT ONE!

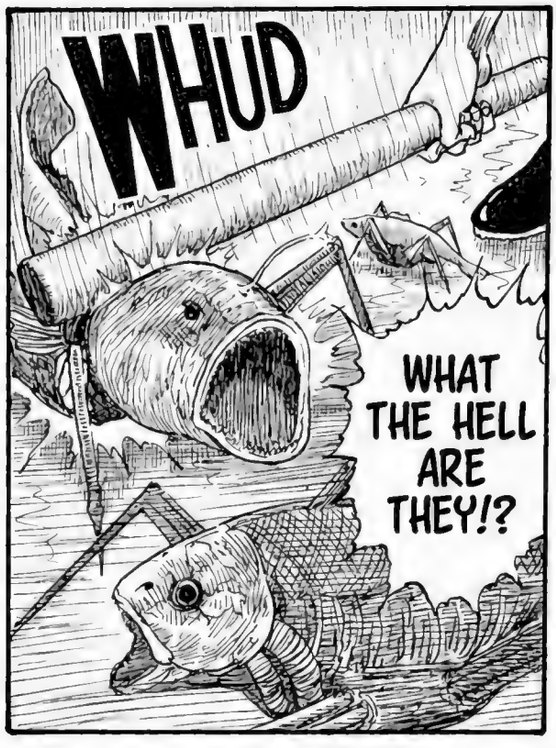
WHAT THE...
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS!?
FWIP
FWAP
GALANK GALANK
GALANK
GALANK


FWUMF
HUH!?
FLOP FLOP
SKITTER
TWIK

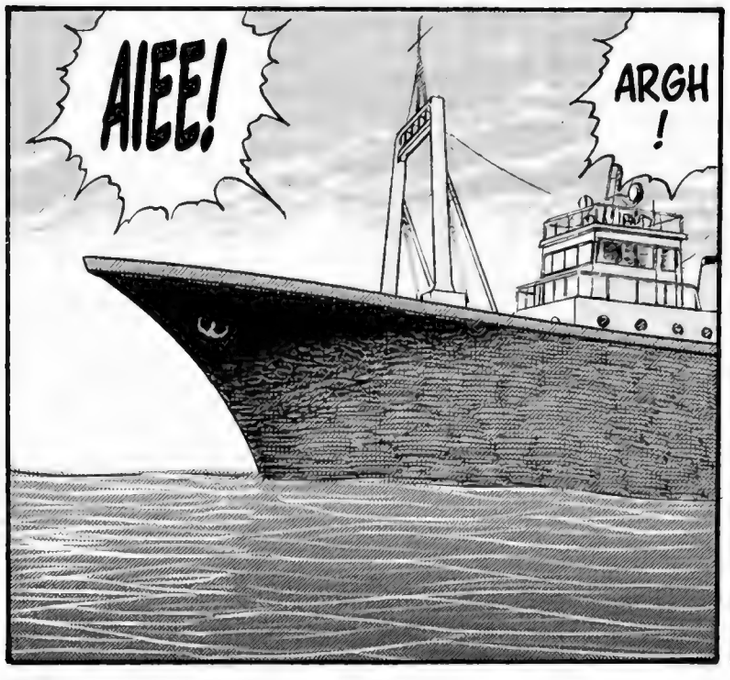
RRRUUUSSSHHHH

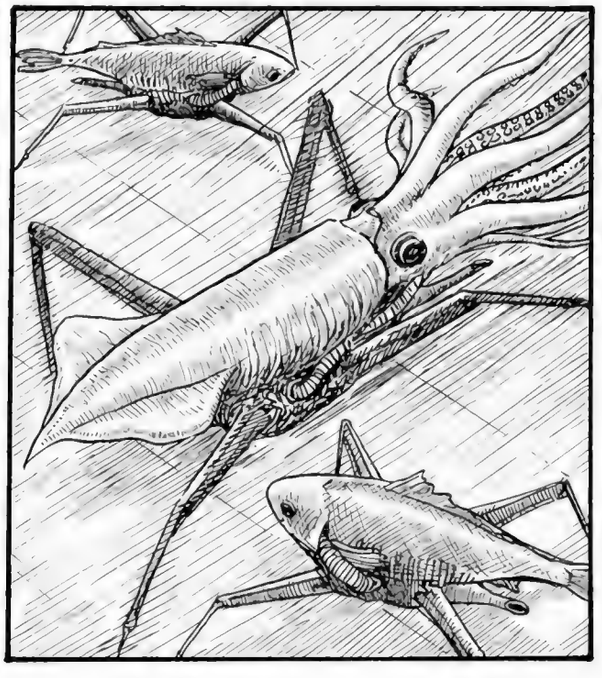
WHOA!
RUUSSSHHH

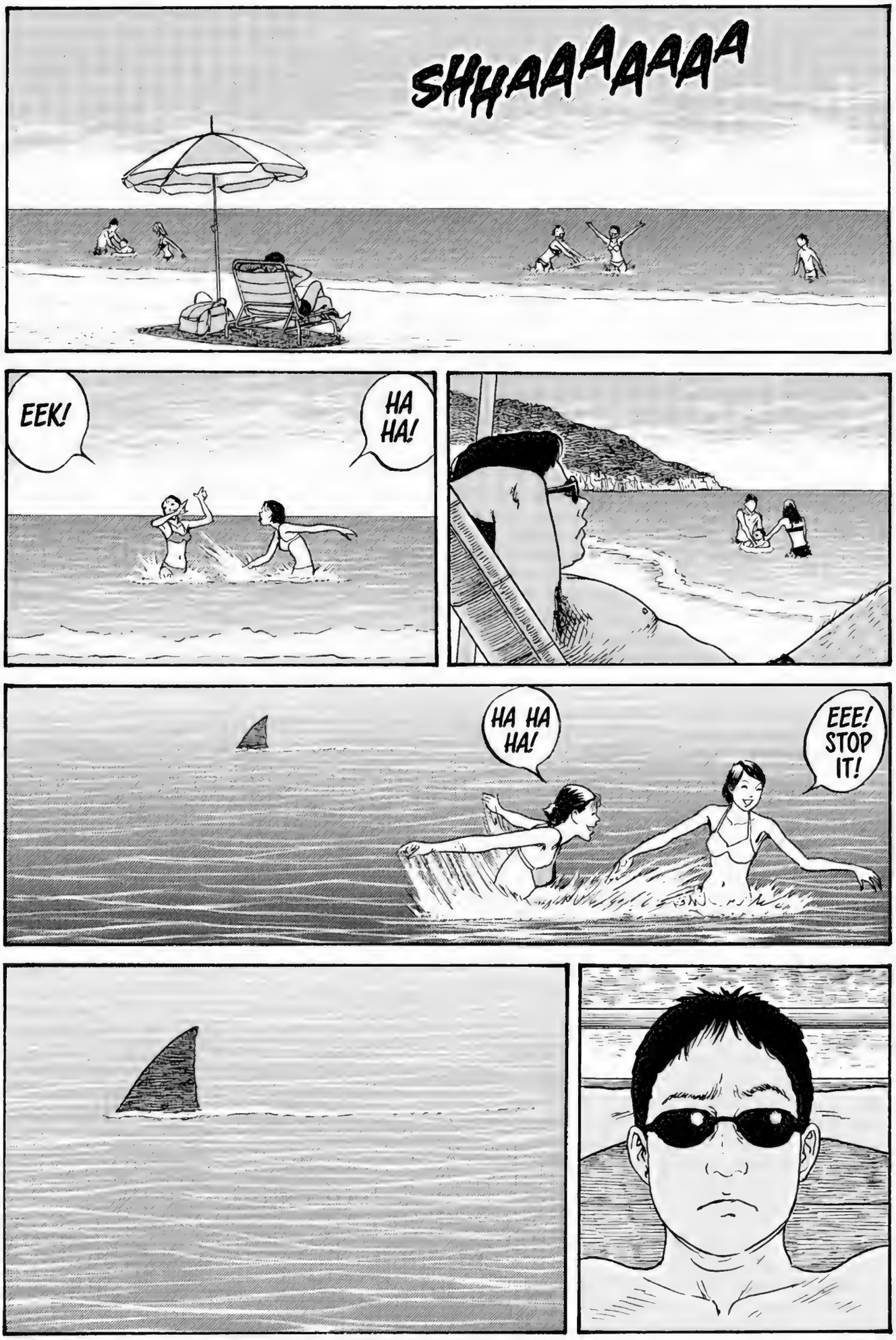
STOP THEM!


WHUD
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY!?

AGGH! OW OW OW!
SKITTA SKITTA


AIEE!
ARGH!

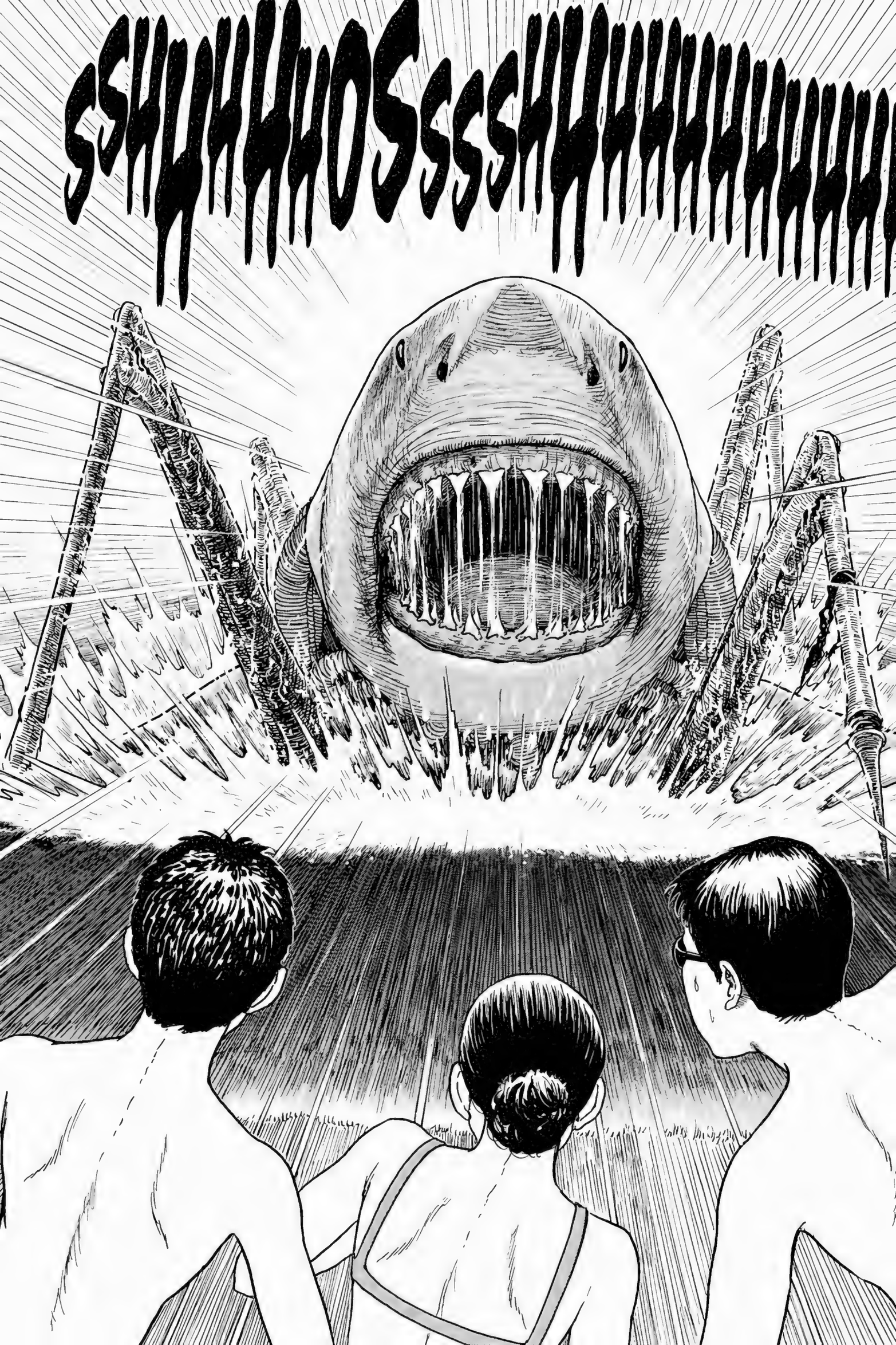



SHHAAAAAAA
EEK!
HA HA!
HA HA HA!
EEE! STOP IT!

GET OUT OF THE WATER!
HEY, THERE'S A SHARK!
SHARK !!
WHA --!?
SPLASH SPLASH
EEYAGH!
WHAT !?
IS EVERYONE OUT!?
EEYAGH!
HURRY! GET ONTO SHORE!

THAT WAS CLOSE! WE WERE LUCKY I NOTICED IT IN TIME!
WEIRD ...
HUH...IT'S COMING THIS WAY.
SHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
...WHAT'S IT DOING...!?
WHAT...

SHISSHHHH
WHAT!?
SHHHHOSSHHHHHHHH

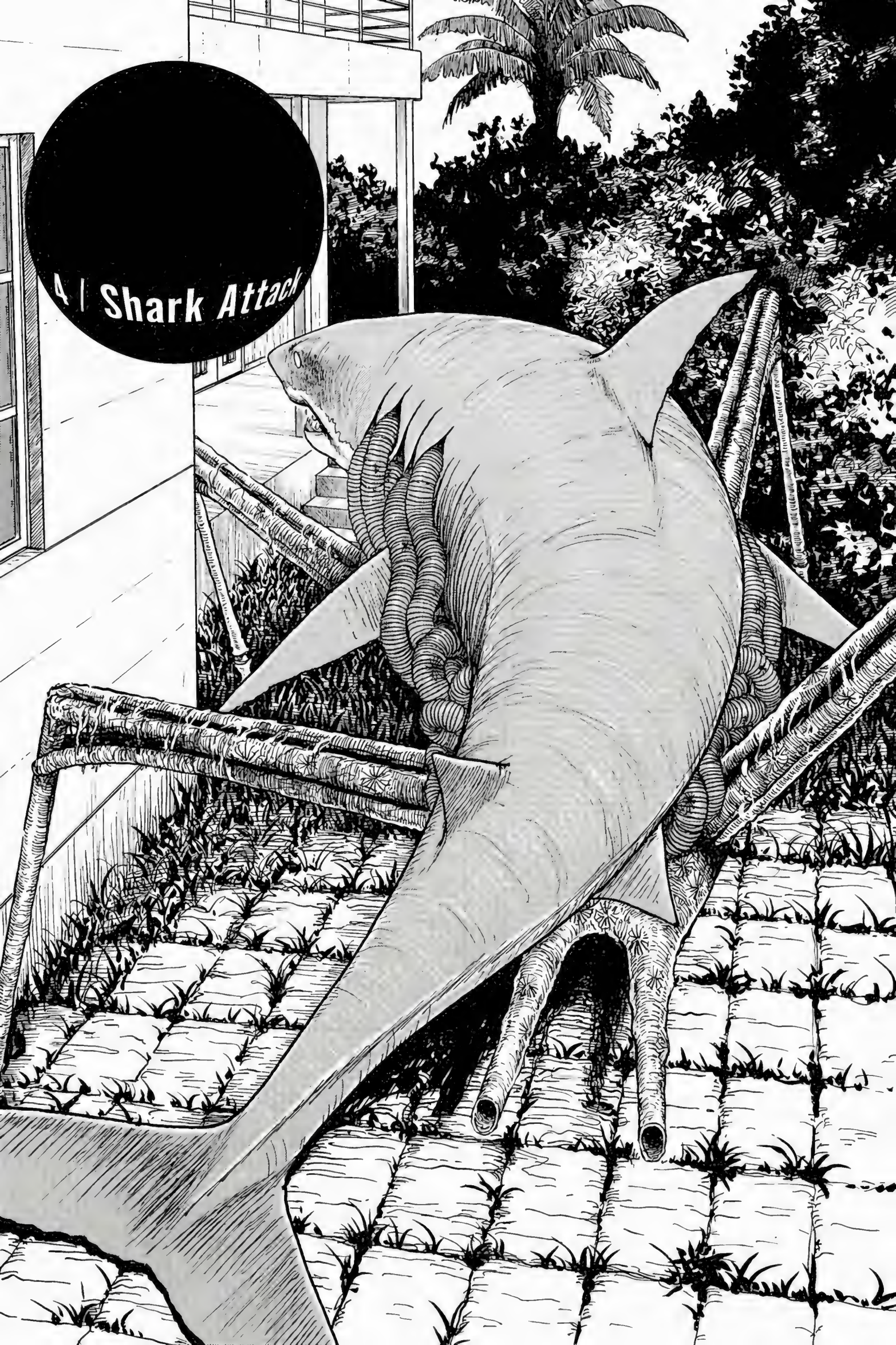

SSHHHHOSSSHHHHHHHHH

UWAAAA!
GASHUNK
GYAAAAA!
SHAAA

HEY... ARE YOU AWAKE?
I'M SORRY, TOO.
NO, IT'S OKAY.
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME.
I'M SORRY, KAORI...I WAS WRONG. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSIDER-ATE.
YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN.
YOU FEEL COOL-ER.
I... BRUSHED MY TEETH.

KAORI... WHAT IS IT?
NO!!
NO!! NOT YOU!
IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE !!
BUT I BRUSHED MY TEETH! I EVEN USED MOUTHWASH!
HAAH!
NO... I CAN SMELL IT!
!?
LOOK OUTSIDE!! TAKE A LOOK!!

18

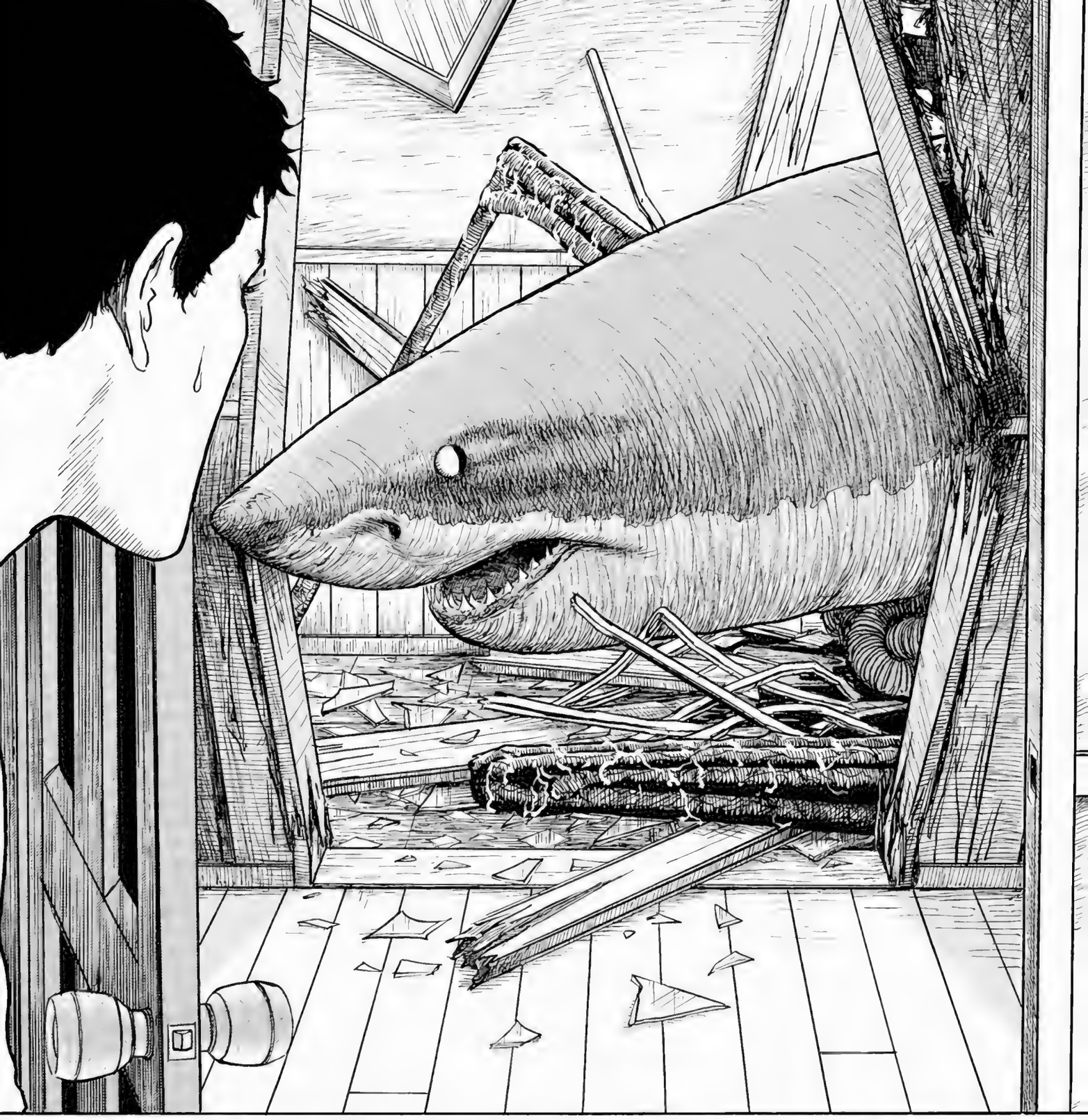

4 | Shark Attack

NO WAY...
TADASHI... WHAT WAS THAT?
BE QUIET !!
SHH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
A SHARK... WALKING ...
A SHARK !
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
DON'T WORRY... IT'LL GO AWAY.

GASHUNK
GASHUNK
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?
BUT...
GASHUNK
HOLD ON, KAORI. IT'LL GO AWAY.
THE SMELL! I CAN'T TAKE THIS SMELL ANYMORE!
SHH!
EEYAAA!

FSSSHHHHHH
FSSSHHHHHH
FSSSHHHHHH
KRIK IK IK
FSSSHHHHHH
FSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
GASHINNNNNNNK
EEYAHH!

KLUNK
KLATTER
KRRAK!
KAKRUNCH!
YAAA!
KLUNK
SKREE
CHAK
T-TADA-SHI...



KAORI!! JUMP OUT THE WINDOW!
SLAM

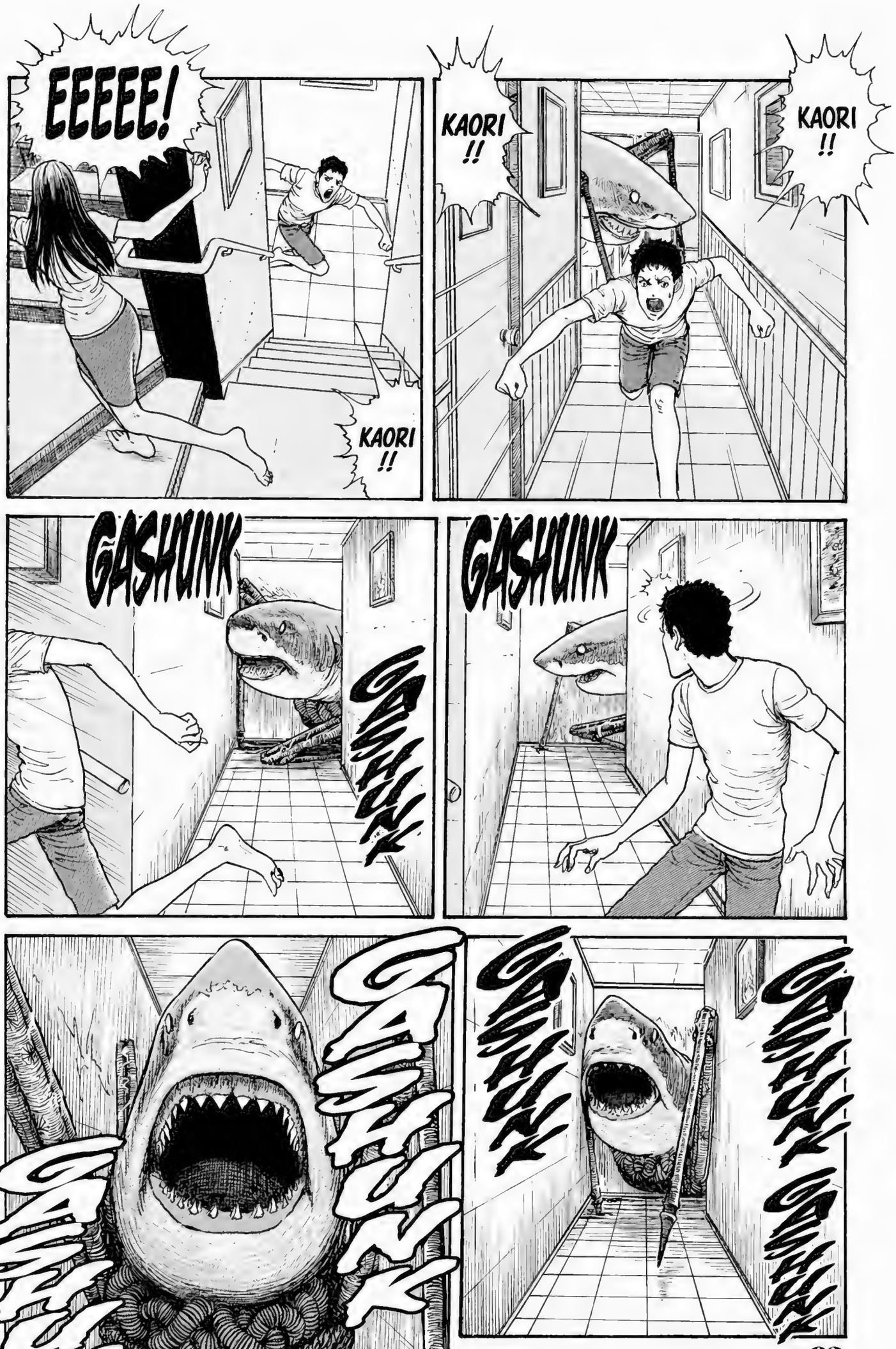
QUICKLY !
AIEE!
DOMMM!
ARGH !?
EEEEEEE--
BAMM!!
WAM

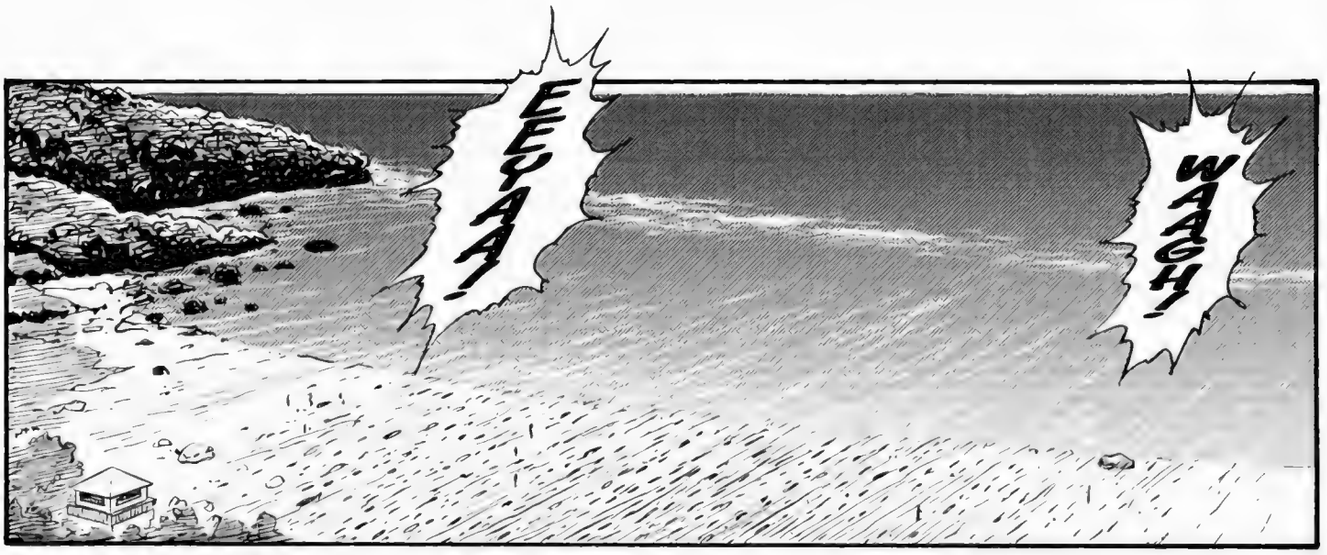
DM
DM
DM

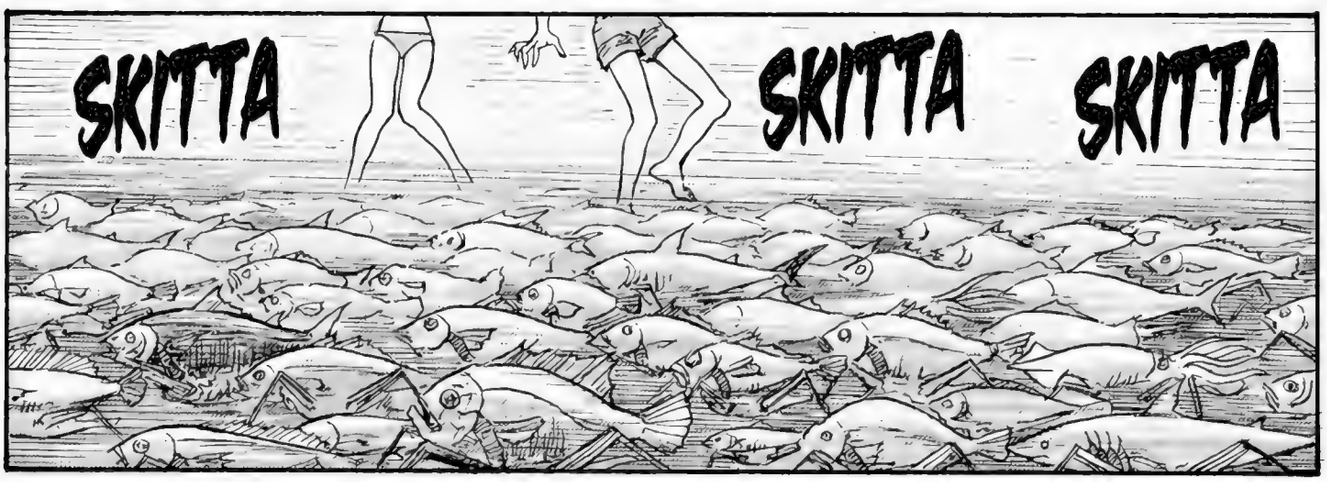
GRKKK
KRK
KRK

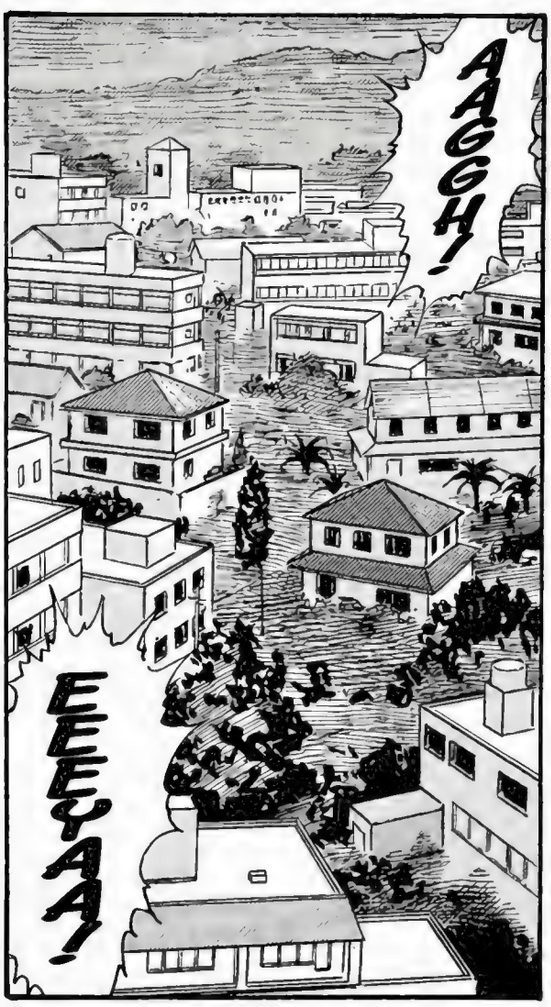
AIIEEE!

AIIEEEEE!
KAORI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!? I SAID GET OUT!
GASHUNK GASHUNK


EEEEE!
KAORI !!
KAORI !!
KAORI !!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK


WAAGH!
EEEÇAA!


SKITTA
SKITTA
SKITTA


AAGGH!
EEEÇAA!

UUAGH!

AIEE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE FISH... THE FISH ARE WALKING ...!?
SMELLS LIKE THEY'RE ROTTEN!
WHAT A STINK!
THERE'S TOO MANY!
CALL FOR BACK-UP!!

FIRE!
IT'S A HAMMER-HEAD!
LOOK OUT!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
ARRGHH!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

KRRRRRAKK
SNAP
KRNCH

KAORI, WHERE ARE YOU!?
KAORI!
SNAP
KRNCH

KAORI!

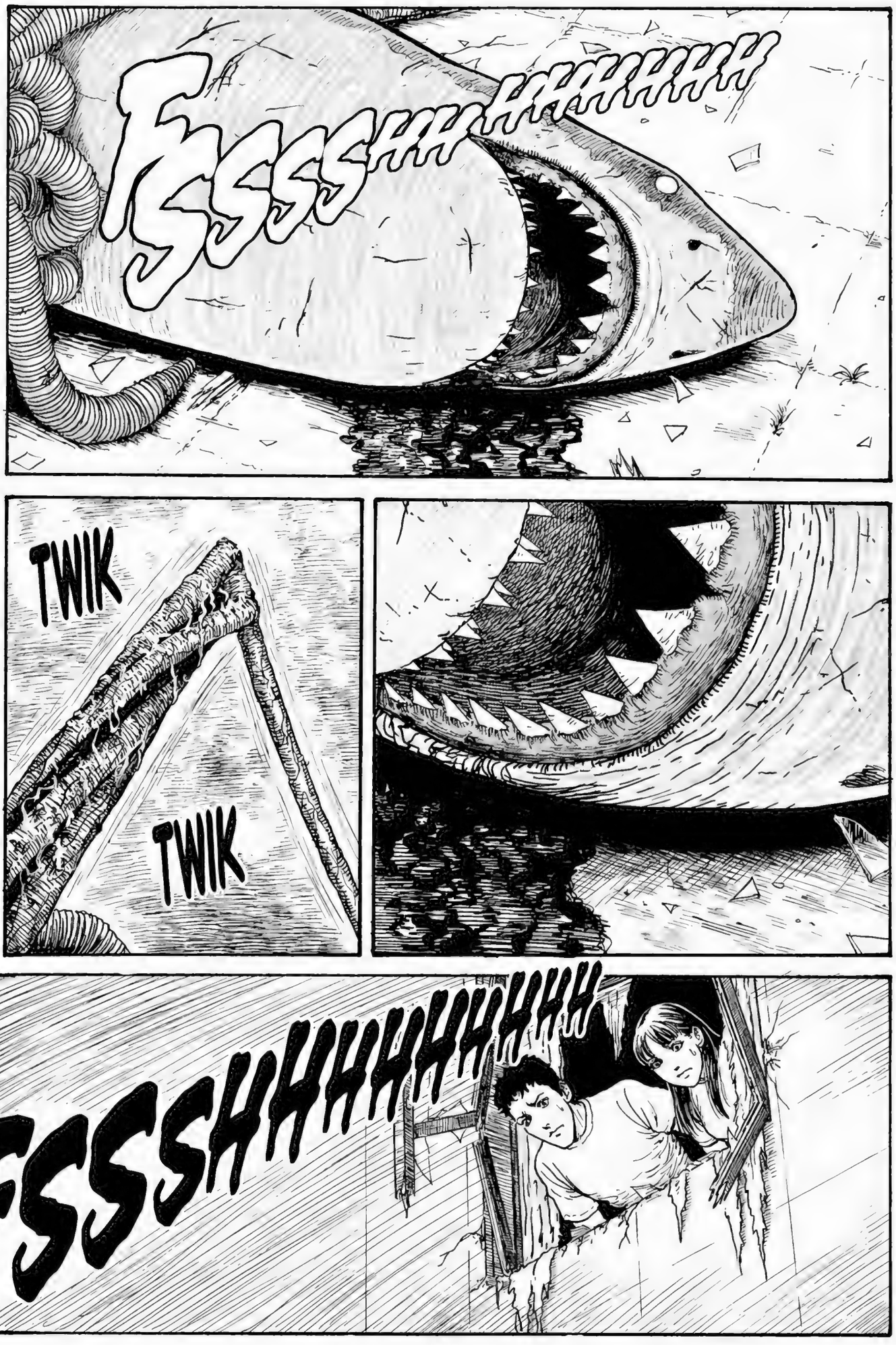
HUF
HUF
SLAM
GASHUNK
I CAN'T FIGHT A SHARK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
TAKE CARE OF THAT THING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GOOD"!? STOP RUNNING AWAY!!
KAORI! GOOD, YOU'RE HERE!
TADASHI!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK

EEYAAA!
WHAM
B-BAM
SHING
ARGH!
BAM
YAAH!

NO!
GWAAAA
THRAKKK
KRRASSHH
HHHHHHHHHH

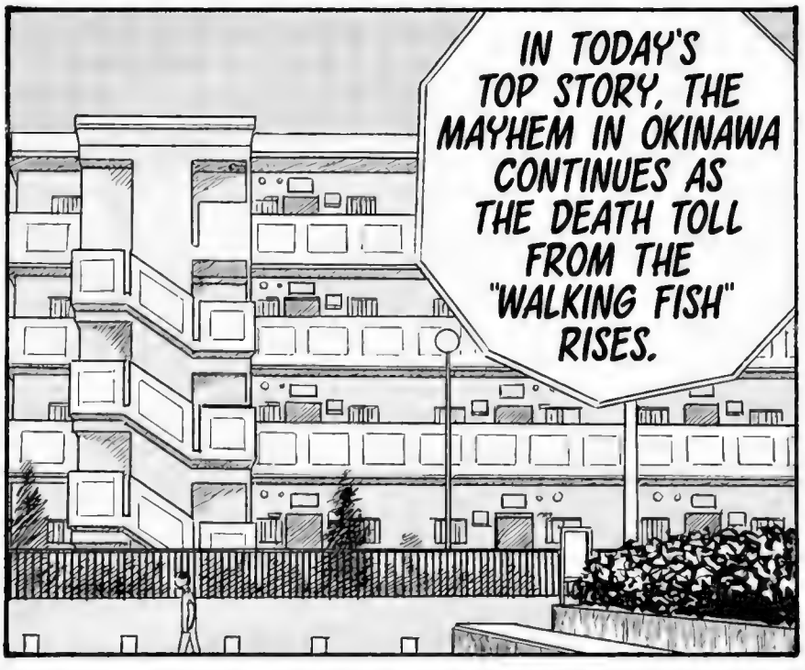
FSSSHHHHHHHHH

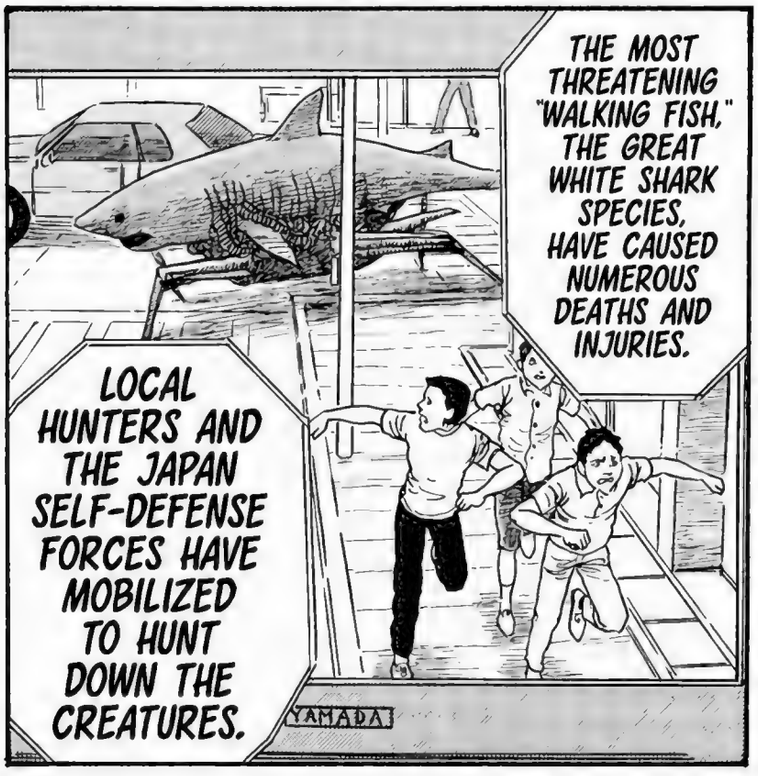
5 / Flight

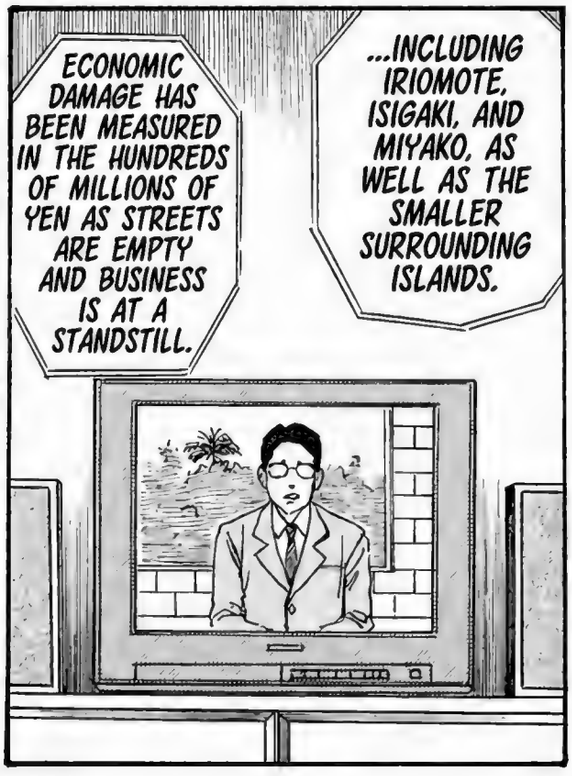

FSSSHHHHHHHHH
TWIK
TWIK
FSSSHHHHHHHHHHH

TOKYO.

THE LEGGED FISH CREATURES SWARMING THE MAIN ISLAND OF OKINAWA HAVE NOW BEEN SIGHTED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN...

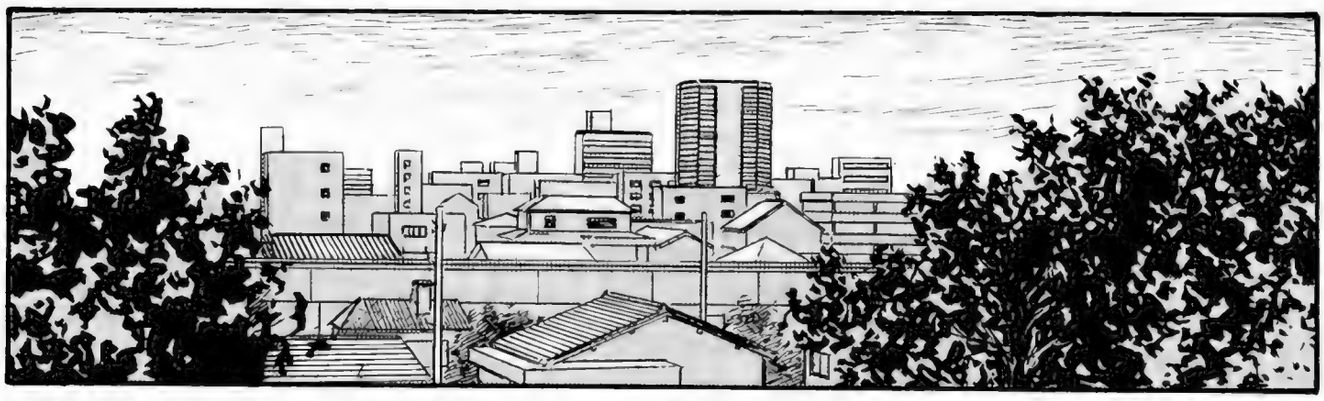

IN TODAY'S TOP STORY, THE MAYHEM IN OKINAWA CONTINUES AS THE DEATH TOLL FROM THE "WALKING FISH" RISES.


THE MOST THREATENING "WALKING FISH," THE GREAT WHITE SHARK SPECIES, HAVE CAUSED NUMEROUS DEATHS AND INJURIES.
LOCAL HUNTERS AND THE JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCES HAVE MOBILIZED TO HUNT DOWN THE CREATURES.
YAMADA

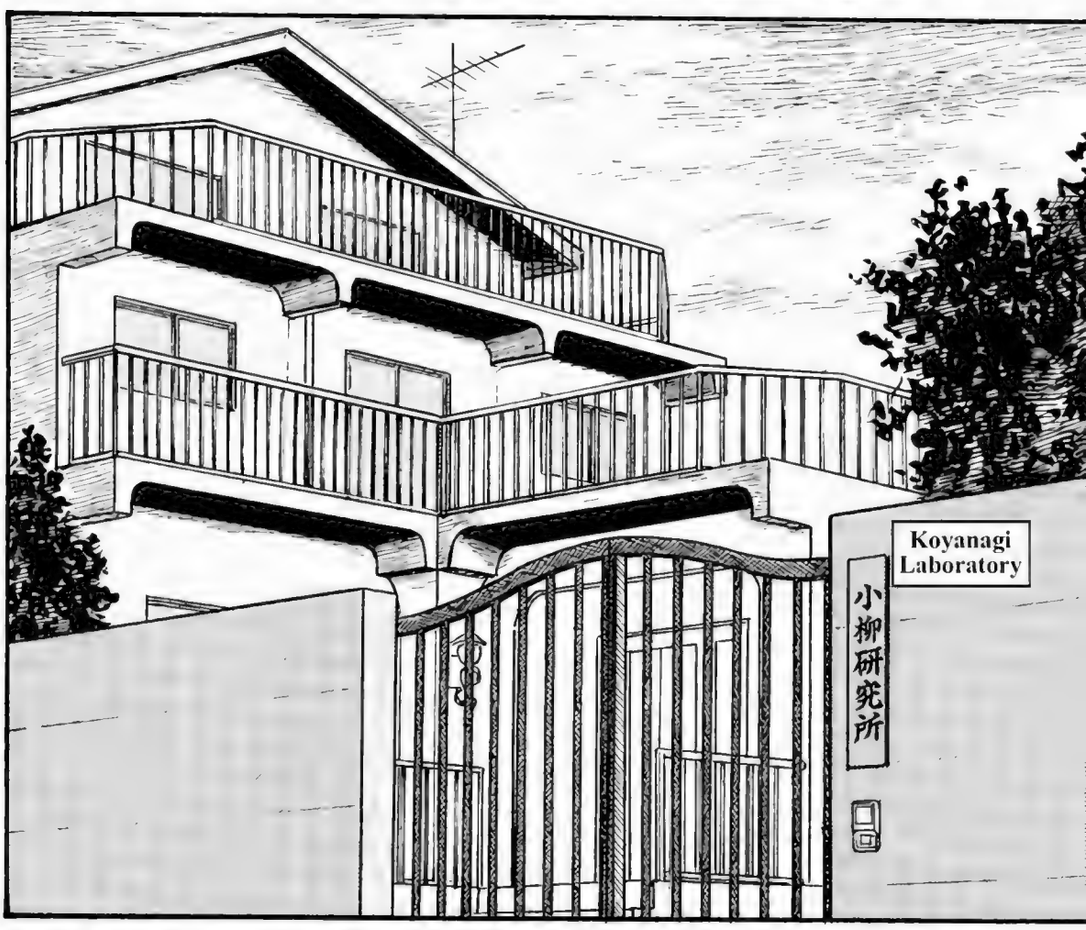

ECONOMIC DAMAGE HAS BEEN MEASURED IN THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEN AS STREETS ARE EMPTY AND BUSINESS IS AT A STANDSTILL.
...INCLUDING IRIOMOTE, ISIGAKI, AND MIYAKO, AS WELL AS THE SMALLER SURROUNDING ISLANDS.

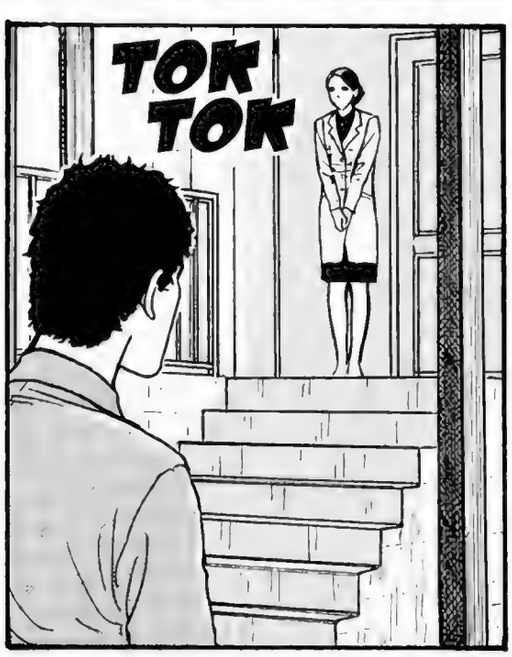
...BUT THEY DON'T EVEN REACT! THEY'RE MONSTERS!!
WE KEEP ON HITTING THEM..
YAMADA
BLAM
BLAM
YAMADA
I WISH THEY'D HURRY UP AND TAKE CARE OF IT!
IT'S DISGUSTING! IT SMELLS LIKE A DEAD BODY!
...ABOUT THE OVERWHELMING SMELL OF THE CREATURES.
NUMEROUS RESIDENTS HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED ...
YAMADA
WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS ...
RESEARCH FACILITIES AROUND THE NATION HAVE BEGUN TO EXAMINE THE CREATURES ...
SEVERAL OF THE SMALLER AND MEDIUM-SIZED "WALKING FISH" HAVE BEEN CAPTURED...
...ALONG WITH A GREAT WHITE SHARK-LIKE CREATURE WHICH WAS INCAPACITATED WHEN IT FELL FROM THE SECOND STORY OF A HOUSE.

I'M COMING IN.
HEY, KAORI...
KAORI...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING ?
KAORI!
BRR
...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
WE'RE BACK IN TOKYO. YOU CAN RELAX.
KAORI... ARE YOU STILL SHAKING ?
BRR BRR
BRR

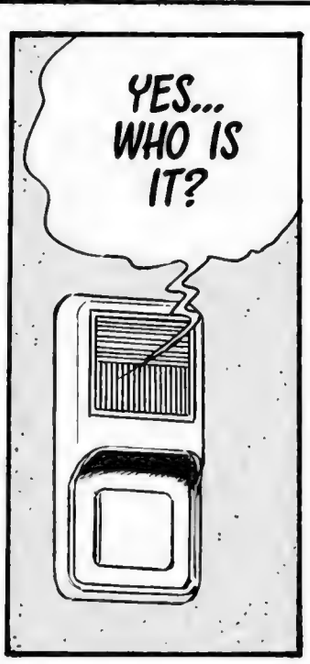


小柳研究所
Koyanagi Laboratory


Koyanagi Laboratory
小柳研究所


TOK TOK

IT'S TADASHI.
OH, TADASHI. COME IN.


YES... WHO IS IT?

DOCTOR KOYA-NAGI ...
YOUR NEPHEW IS HERE.
OH, TADASHI... GOOD TO SEE YOU.
HEY.
HOW'S YOUR WORK GOING?
AHH, I'M KIND OF IN A SLUMP. I'VE BEEN SHORT ON IDEAS.
MY DAYS AS THE YOUNG, GENIUS INVENTOR ARE LONG GONE. YOU CAN'T FIGHT AGE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO OKINAWA WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HA HA...IT WASN'T SO GREAT. KAORI GOT KIND OF UPSET.
BUT ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

UM...WHAT I WANTED TO SAY IS, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOUSE...
OH, DON'T WORRY...I BUILT THAT ON A WHIM ANYWAY. NOBODY'LL MISS IT.
YOU SAID SOMETHING STRANGE IN YOUR MESSAGE, THOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY SHARKS"?
CARE TO EXPLAIN?
WHAT!? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS?
NEWS? NO, I DON'T WATCH TV.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AND SO WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK HERE.
IT'S UTTER CHAOS IN OKINAWA.

I COULDN'T BRING SOMETHING SO DISGUSTING! IF YOU SAW ONE UP CLOSE YOU'D KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
I'D LIKE TO SEE ONE...YOU DIDN'T BRING ONE BACK FROM OKINAWA?
HMM... FOUR-LEGGED FISH...
YES, SIR.
MISS YOSHIYAMA, I WANT YOU TO BOOK ME A FLIGHT TO OKINAWA IMMEDIATELY.
HMM ...
...
FISH WITH LEGS, HUH...?

TADASHI! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'M HOME.
KAORI !
I CAN SMELL... I CAN SMELL THEM AGAIN !!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
I WAS JUST VISITING MY UNCLE.
NO! I'M NOT IMAGINING IT!
THE FISH THINGS? I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING. WE'RE IN TOKYO. YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT.
THAT SMELL! THOSE CREATURES' SMELL.
SMELL ?

I'M NOT CRAZY! WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?
LOOK, KAORI...YOU HAD A SCARY EXPERIENCE SO YOU CAN'T GET RID OF YOUR MEMORY OF THAT SMELL.
EVEN NOW...IT'S COMING CLOSER...
IT'S GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER!!
I CAN SMELL IT...
I CAN SMELL ...
DO YOU WANT A CUP OF COFFEE ?
HEY.

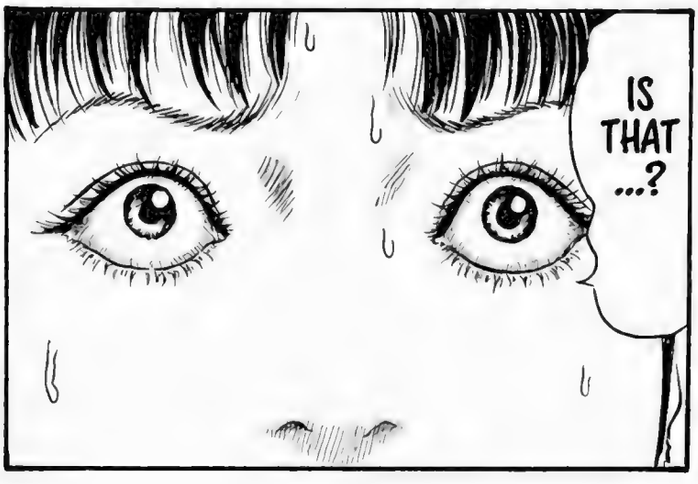
IT'S ALMOST HERE!
KAORI, CALM DOWN!!
IT'S GETTING NEARER ...
IT'S REALLY CLOSE!
KAORI !?
NOOOOOOO!!!
KAORI!

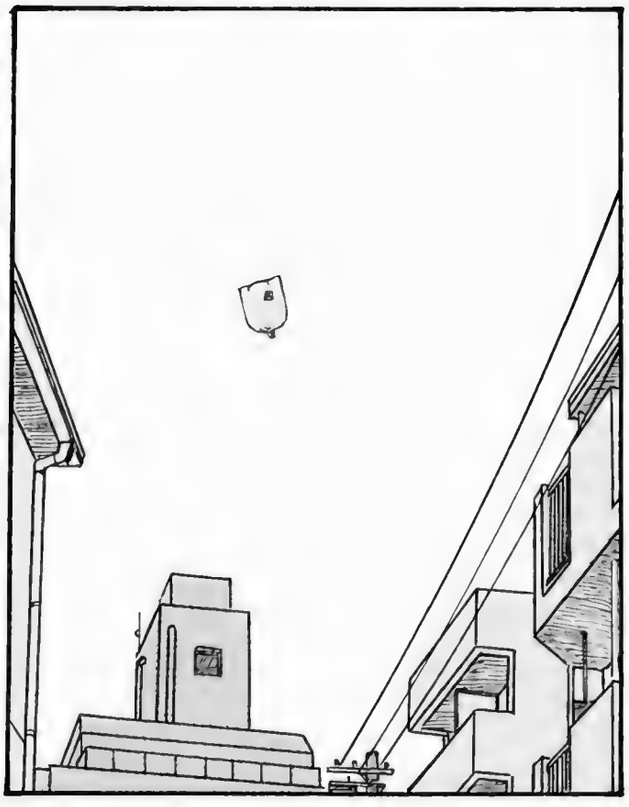
KAORI!! WAIT!!
I CAN STILL SMELL IT.
IT'S COMING THIS WAY...
...CLOSER AND CLOSER!
KAORI! LISTEN, IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.
JUST LOOK AROUND. NO ONE ELSE SMELLS ANYTHING.
COME ON, LET'S GO BACK.
HAVE SOME COFFEE. COME ON. PLEASE.
!
HEY... WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT?
THAT, OVER THERE...

I WONDER.

IT'S COMING THIS WAY.

IS...


IS THAT ...?



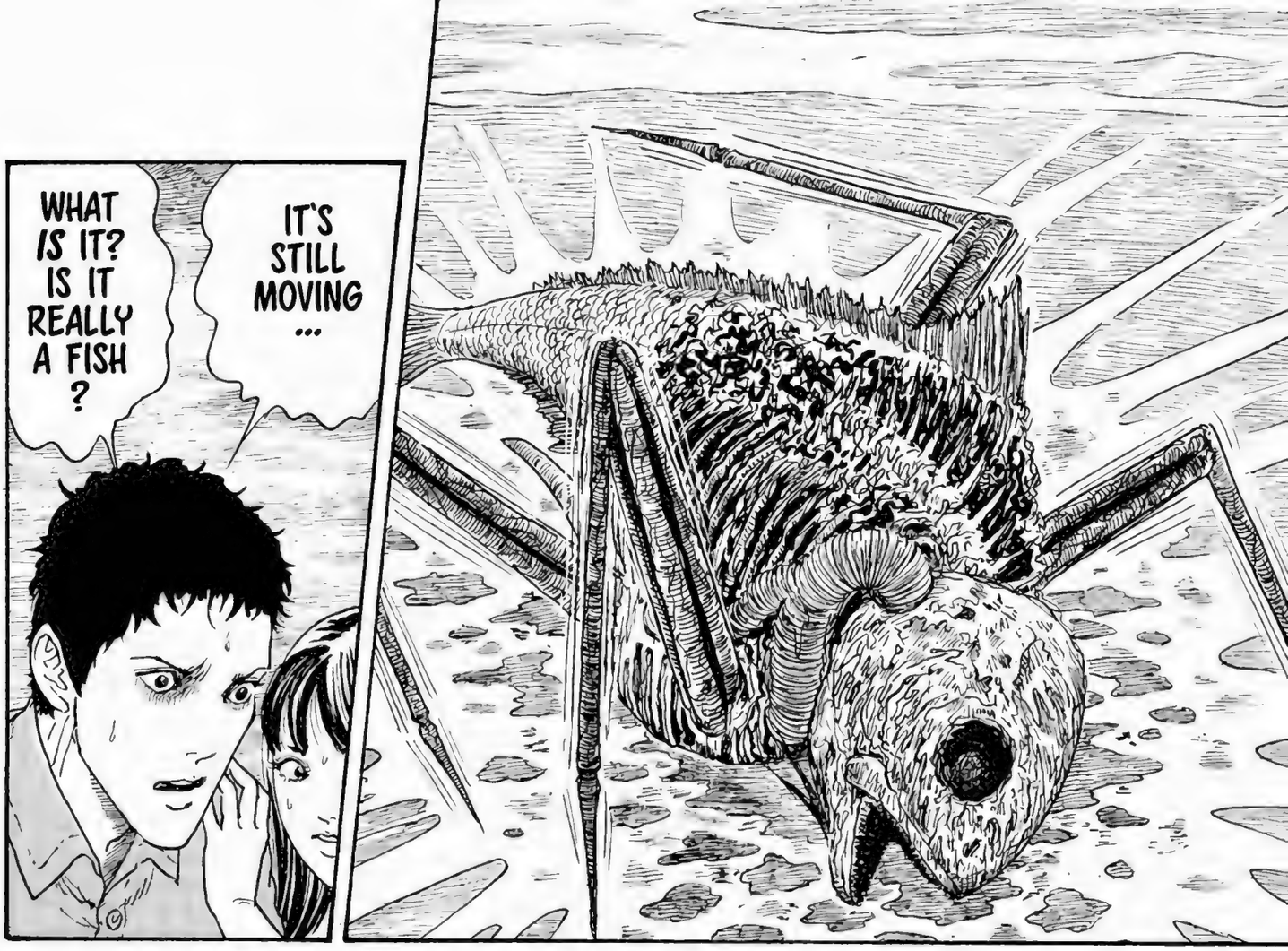
NOOOOOO!!
FSSHHHH
I-IS THAT ...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
FSSSSSSSHHHHHH

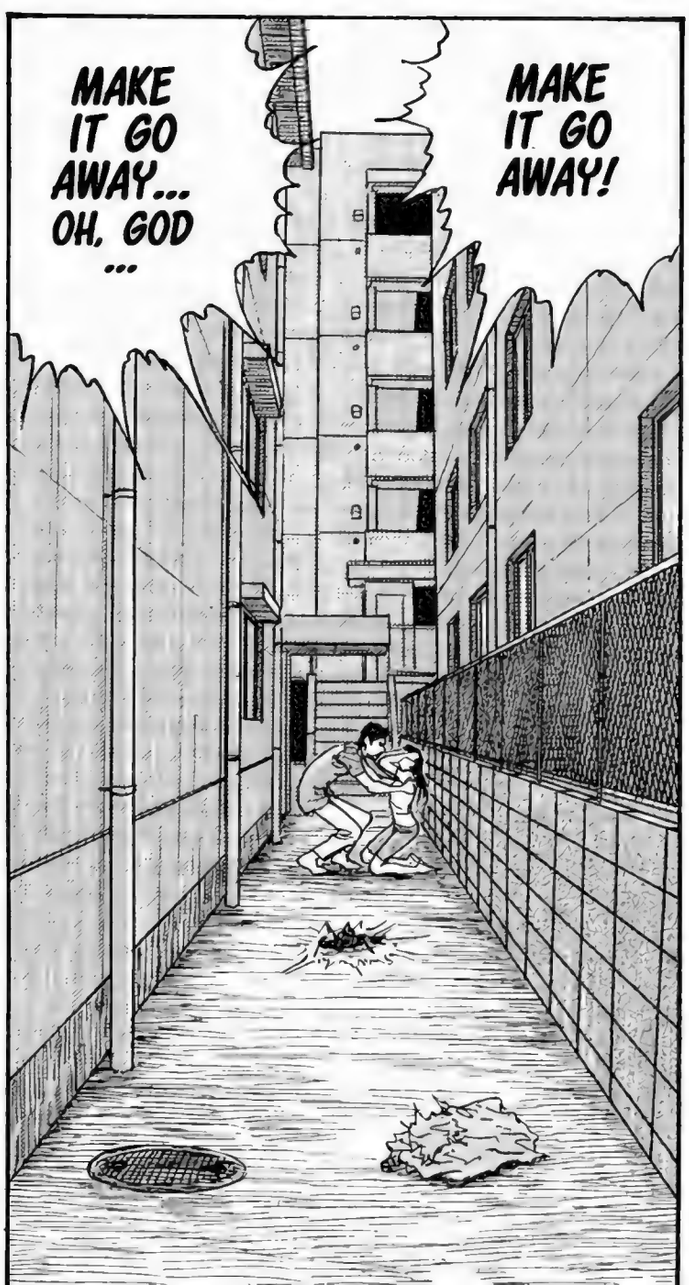
HUF ...
HUF ...
DID THAT GARBAGE BAG...COME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM OKINAWA !?
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
HUF... HUF...
NOW COME ON, I'LL MAKE SOME MORE COFFEE.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S GONE NOW.
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE! IT WAS JUST BLOWN THIS WAY.
NO! I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

EEYAAA!
FSSHHHH
SPLTR
POP
PIP

TWIK
TWIK
TWIK
FSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH
TWIK
AIEEE!!
TWIK
TWIK

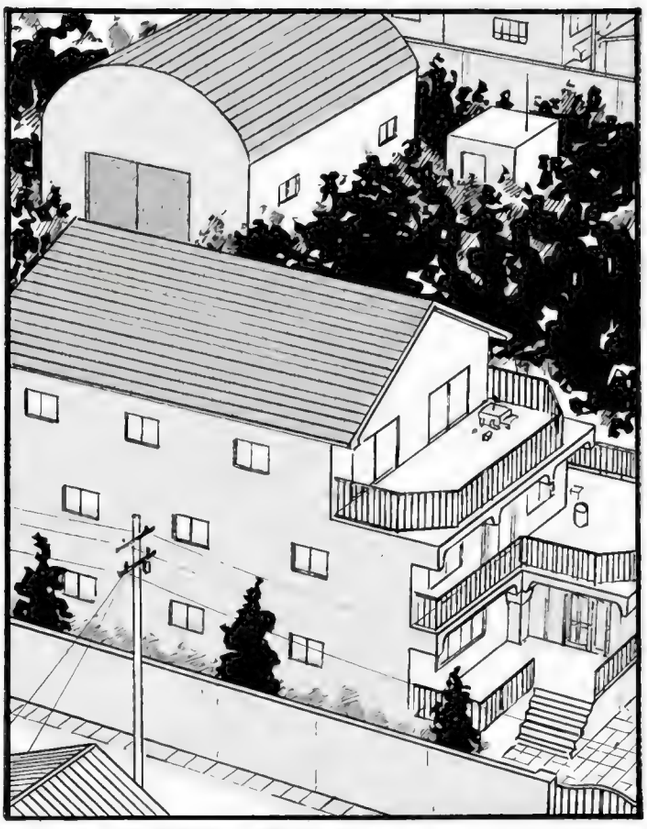
6 / The Death-Stench Creeps
TWIK
TWIK


WHAT IS IT? IS IT REALLY A FISH ?
IT'S STILL MOVING ...


MAKE IT GO AWAY... OH, GOD ...
MAKE IT GO AWAY!

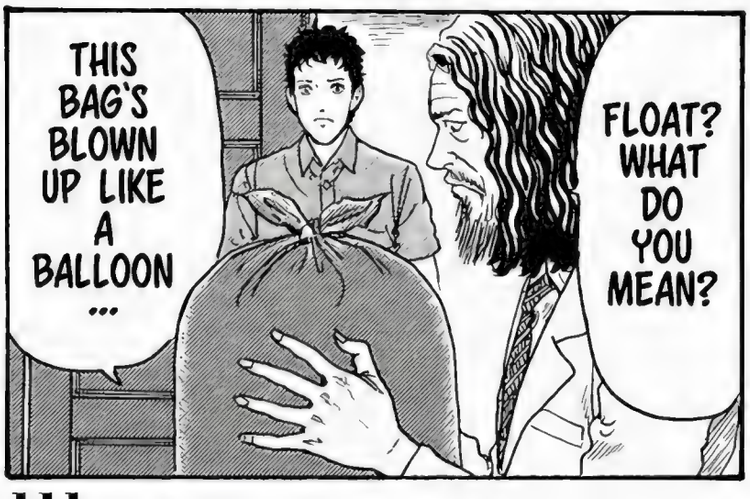
I-IT CAME AFTER US...

NO, IT WASN'T! OH...THIS SMELL. DO SOMETHING !!
N-NO... IT WAS JUST RANDOM ...



THE OTHER BAG WAS BROKEN SO I PUT IT IN A NEW ONE. IT'LL FLOAT IF YOU LET IT GO, SO BE CAREFUL.
I GUESS I WON'T HAVE TO GO TO OKINAWA. I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT IT RIGHT HERE.

HMM...SO THAT'S ONE OF THE CREATURES...?


THIS BAG'S BLOWN UP LIKE A BALLOON ...
FLOAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT'S THAT !?
THE BAG INFLATES AS SOON AS IT'S INSIDE.
YES...THAT'S WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT IT.
ITS ODOR IS STILL LEAKING THROUGH.
...BUT IT STILL STINKS.
IT'S NOT AS TIGHT NOW...
IN OKINAWA IT BLEW UP EVEN TIGHTER UNTIL IT FLOATED UP IN THE AIR.
FWOMMM
...HM.
SNIP

UCK ...
UGH!
WELL, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE SMELL...
HM? OH...
WHAT IS IT, UNCLE?
HAVE YOU EVER SMELLED A HUMAN CORPSE?
TADASHI ...
THE SAME ODOR?
WHAT?
I ENCOUN-TERED THIS ODOR ONCE IN THE PAST...
...

IT WAS MY FATHER.
IN FACT ...
YES... I HAVE.
HAVE YOU?
UH... NO, I HAVEN'T ...
HE WAS SUCH A WORK-AHOLIC HE HARDLY EVER CAME HOME.
SEVERAL DECADES AGO, MY FATHER HAD A PRIVATE WORK-ROOM...SORT OF A FACTORY.
...
...I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THIS BAG.
I'M SORRY... NEVER MIND ALL THAT...
IT HAPPENED DURING A HOT SUMMER.
HE WAS AT THE FACTORY WHEN HE DIED OF A HEART ATTACK, SO HE WASN'T DISCOVERED FOR A WHILE.

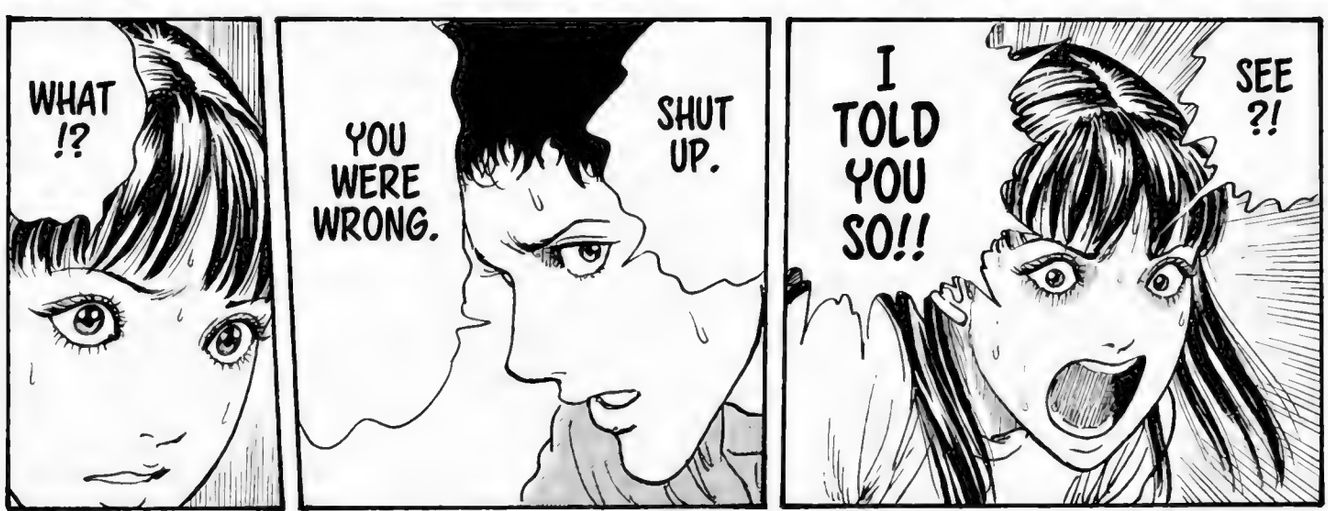
I WENT OUTSIDE TO GET AWAY FROM THE SMELL!
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO LEAVE ME THERE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
KAORI ?
YOU JUST CAN'T FORGET IT...
KAORI ...
THAT ONE'S GONE, BUT THERE'S MORE OF THEM!!
I CAN SMELL THAT THING !

FIND THEM NOW!
AND GET RID OF THEM!!
DON'T YOU GET IT?! THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!
NO!! I KNOW THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!
MY DE-LUSIONS... "MY DE-LUSIONS"... ALWAYS PATRON-IZING ME ...
I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOUR DELUSIONS! THERE IS NO SMELL! WE'RE GOING HOME.
KAORI... ENOUGH!!
BEHIND THE DRAWERS ...UNDER THE BED...
NO... I'M SURE THEY'RE IN OUR ROOM.
COME ON.

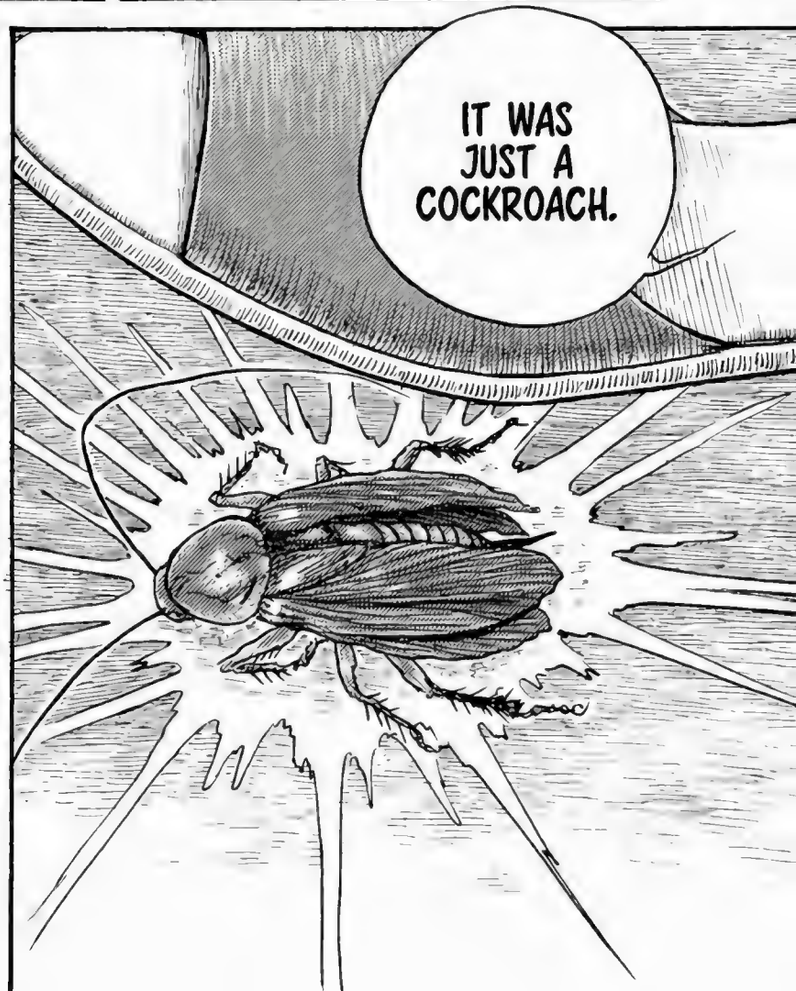
SHEESH ...
I'LL WATCH FROM HERE.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL HAVE A LOOK.
I'LL CHECK EVERY SPOT THEY COULD BE HIDING IN.
FIRST, THE SHOE CABINET.
SHUP
SEE ?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
SHITTA
!?

SKITTASKITTASKITTA
AIEEEEE!
KAORI, CALM DOWN!!
I'M HANDLING IT!
KILL IT!!

WAT

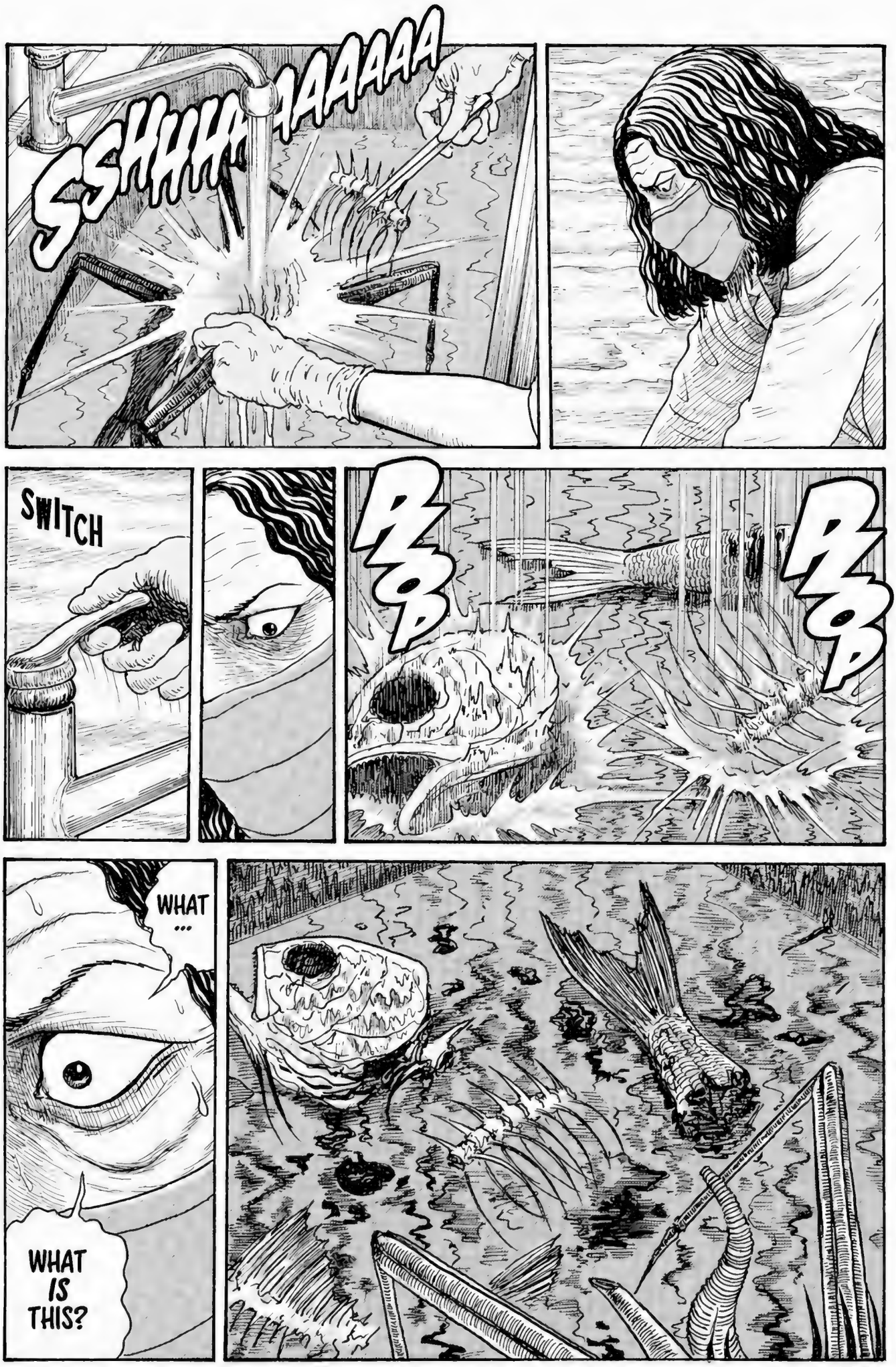

WHAT !?
YOU WERE WRONG.
SHUT UP.
I TOLD YOU SO!!
SEE ?!

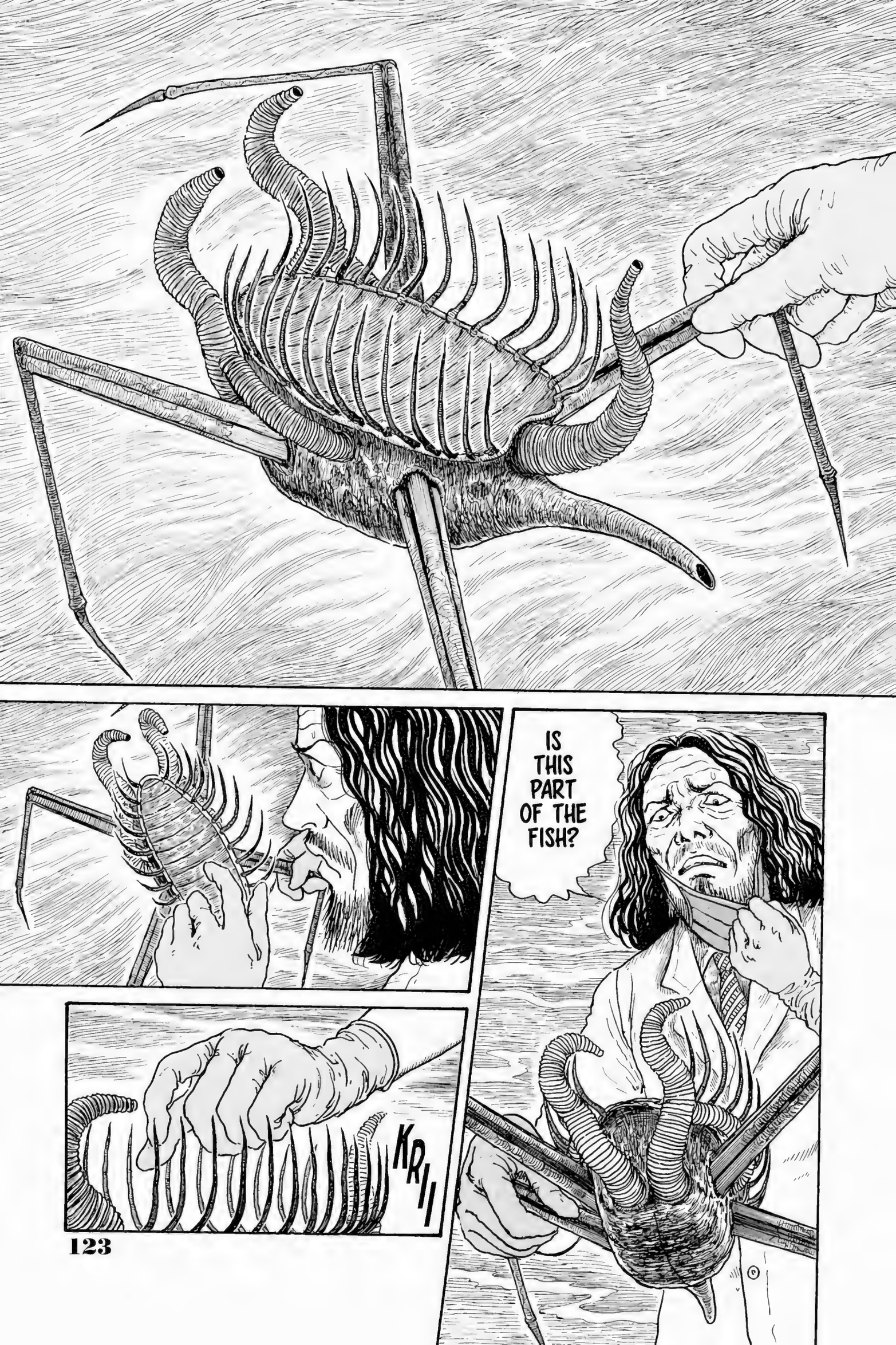
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
SEE ?
...


IT WAS JUST A COCKROACH.

THAT'S STRANGE ...
FWSH
HUH ...?
...
SNIF
SNIF
THEN THAT THING'S REALLY ...!?
NO WAY ...
I CAN REALLY SMELL IT...
I CAN SMELL IT.

ITS BODY IS COMPLETELY ROTTEN. BUT ITS LEGS ARE STILL MOVING.
THIS IS VERY BIZARRE.
...I MUST DISSECT IT.
IN ANY CASE ...
TNIK
TNIK


SSHHHAAAAAA
SWITCH
POP
POP
WHAT
...
WHAT
IS
THIS?


IS THIS PART OF THE FISH?
KRII

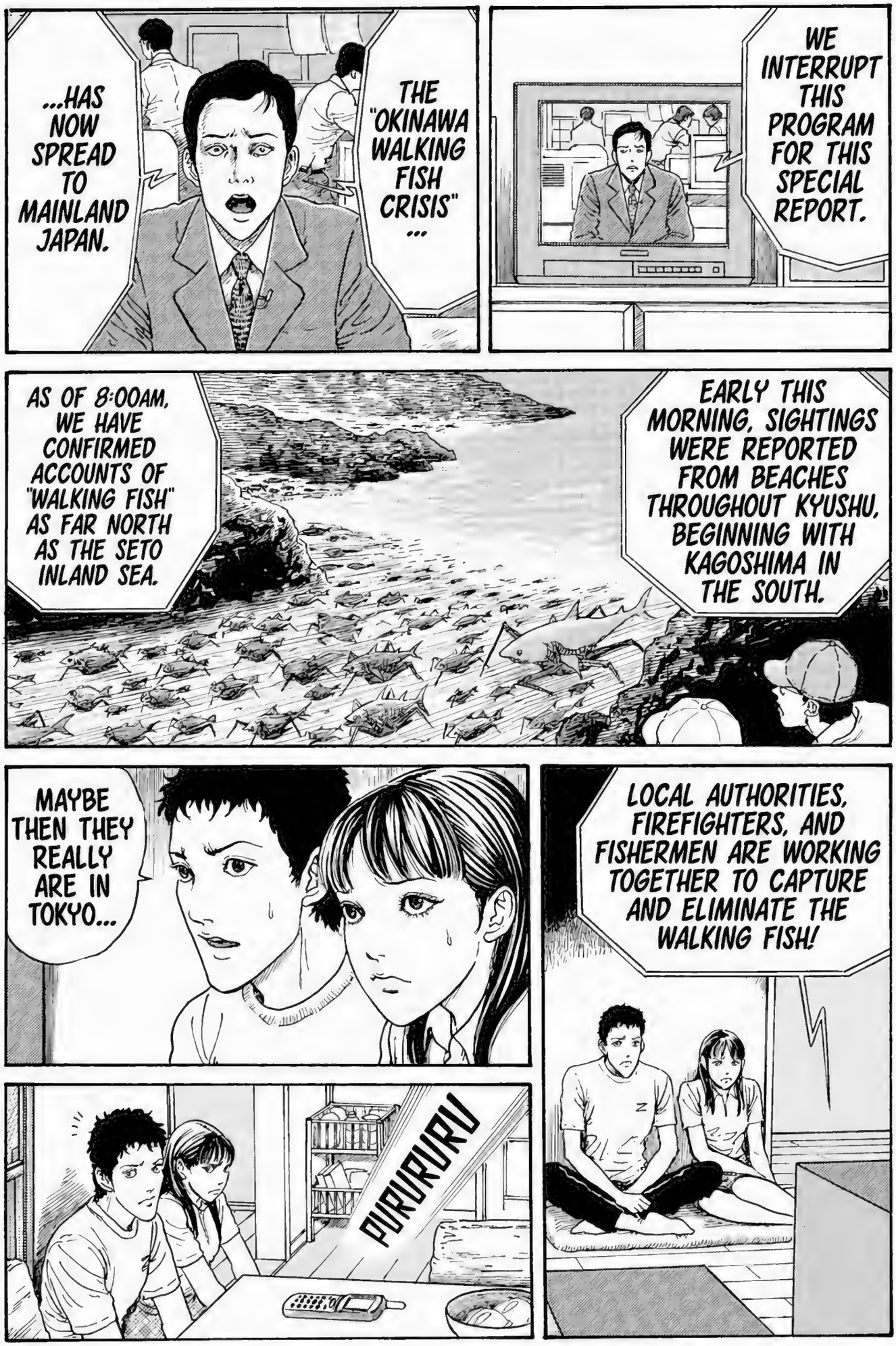
SNAP

UGAAAH!
KRRR
KRRRRR
UWAAA!
Y-YOSHI-YAMA...
MS. YOSHI-YAMA!

GGH...
GGHH...
KRRR
KRRR
GYAHHH!

AAGGHH!!
1 / Testimony

WHAT HAPPENED, SIR!?
DOCTOR KOYA-NAGI!!
COME HERE RIGHT AWAY!
Y-YOSHI-YAMA...
AAIIEEEE!!


THE "OKINAWA WALKING FISH CRISIS" ...
...HAS NOW SPREAD TO MAINLAND JAPAN.
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR THIS SPECIAL REPORT.
AS OF 8:00AM, WE HAVE CONFIRMED ACCOUNTS OF "WALKING FISH" AS FAR NORTH AS THE SETO INLAND SEA.
EARLY THIS MORNING, SIGHTINGS WERE REPORTED FROM BEACHES THROUGHOUT KYUSHU, BEGINNING WITH KAGOSHIMA IN THE SOUTH.
MAYBE THEN THEY REALLY ARE IN TOKYO...
LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FIREFIGHTERS, AND FISHERMEN ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO CAPTURE AND ELIMINATE THE WALKING FISH!
PURURURU

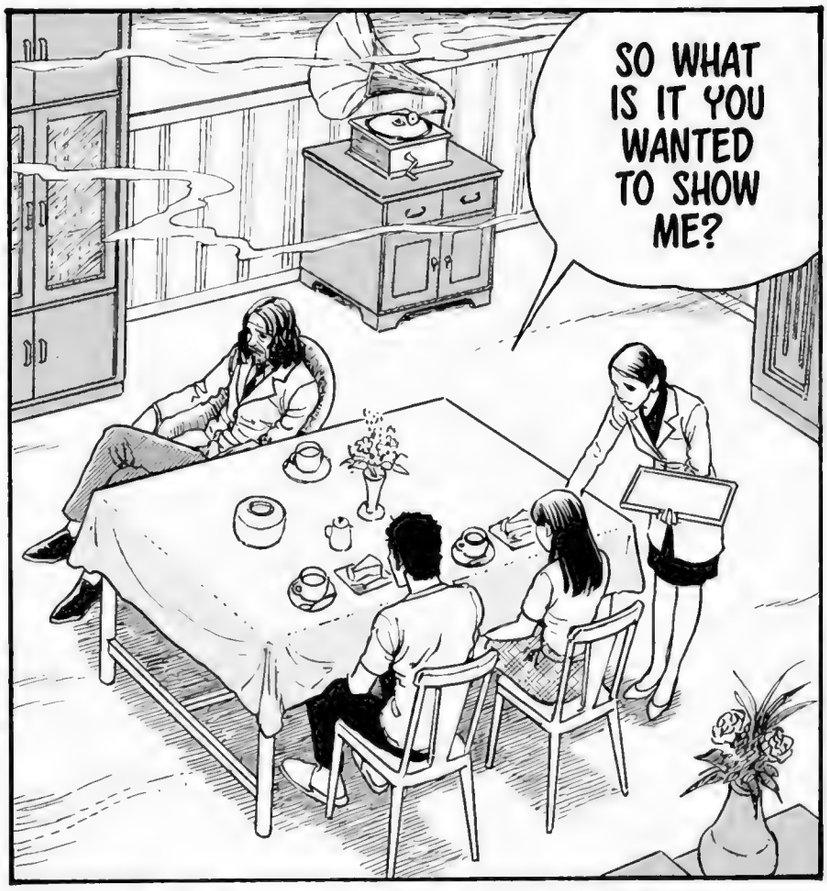
I HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHOW YOU.
CAN YOU COME TO MY LAB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?
OH, HEY, UNCLE.
IT'S ME... KOYA-NAGI.
HELLO ?
CLICK
JUST COME HERE!
"SOME-THING INTEREST-ING"?
...PLEASE COME IN.
WELCOME...
小柳研究所
Koyanagi Laboratory

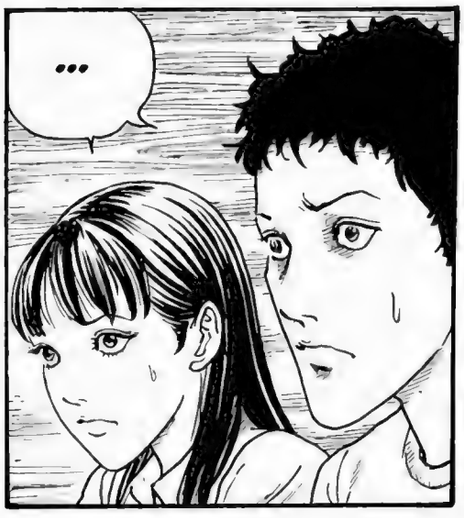
THANKS, BUT I'M OKAY.
NO...
YOU LOOK PALE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MS. YOSHIYAMA ?
TADASHI !!
HEY, TADASHI ...
REALLY ...IT'S NOTHING.
ARE YOU SURE? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!!
NO!!
DO YOU WANT TO WAIT OUTSIDE, THEN?
I CAN SMELL IT AGAIN...IT'S THE SMELL OF THAT THING!

...

THANKS FOR COMING.

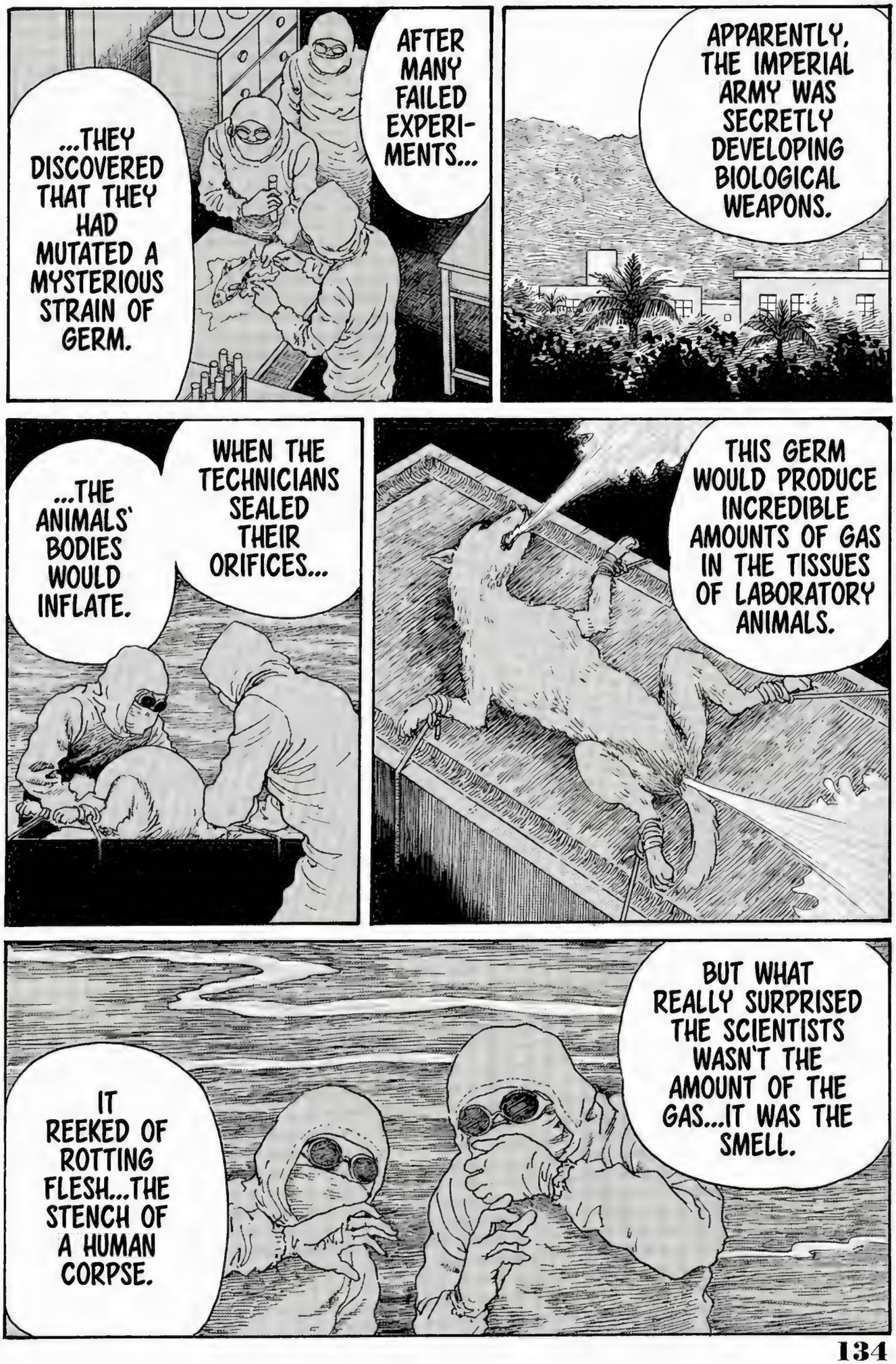
I KNOW YOU PROBABLY WANT TO LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU CAN, SINCE THAT SMELL'S GOTTEN IN HERE...
WELL... HOLD ON. IT'S NOT THAT EASY.


SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?


...

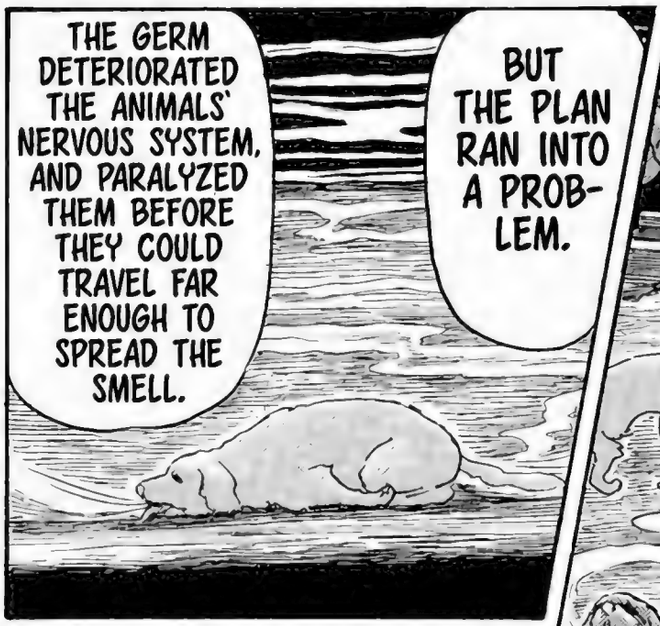
YES... THE SMELL OF DEATH... THAT'S WHAT IT IS...
THAT ROTTEN SMELL ...

...HE SEEMED TO DREAD THE SMELL OF HIS CORPSE.
OF COURSE, MY FAMILY WAS PLANNING TO ANYWAY...BUT THE WAY MY FATHER SAID IT...
"WHEN I DIE, I WANT TO BE CREMATED."
WHEN HE WAS ALIVE MY FATHER USED TO SAY...
YES...I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THAT FIRST...THOUGH IT'S SENILE GIBBERISH FOR ALL I KNOW.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE? WHO WOULD CARE HOW THEY SMELL AFTER THEY'RE DEAD, LET ALONE LET IT BOTHER THEM? BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE STORY MY FATHER TOLD ME, NOT TOO LONG BEFORE HE DIED...
...TO AN UNINHABITED ISLAND NEAR OKINAWA.
DURING THE PACIFIC WAR, HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM HIS ASSIGNED LAB...
MY FATHER WAS A SCIENTIST FOR THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY DURING THE WAR.

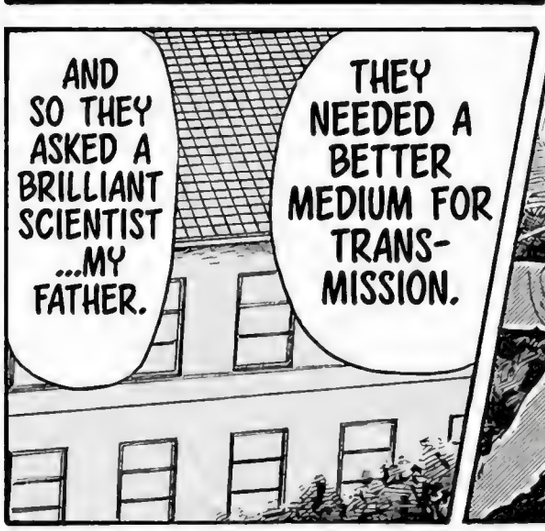

AFTER MANY FAILED EXPERI-MENTS...
...THEY DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD MUTATED A MYSTERIOUS STRAIN OF GERM.
APPARENTLY, THE IMPERIAL ARMY WAS SECRETLY DEVELOPING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.
WHEN THE TECHNICIANS SEALED THEIR ORIFICES...
...THE ANIMALS' BODIES WOULD INFLATE.
THIS GERM WOULD PRODUCE INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF GAS IN THE TISSUES OF LABORATORY ANIMALS.
BUT WHAT REALLY SURPRISED THE SCIENTISTS WASN'T THE AMOUNT OF THE GAS...IT WAS THE SMELL.
IT REEKED OF ROTTING FLESH...THE STENCH OF A HUMAN CORPSE.

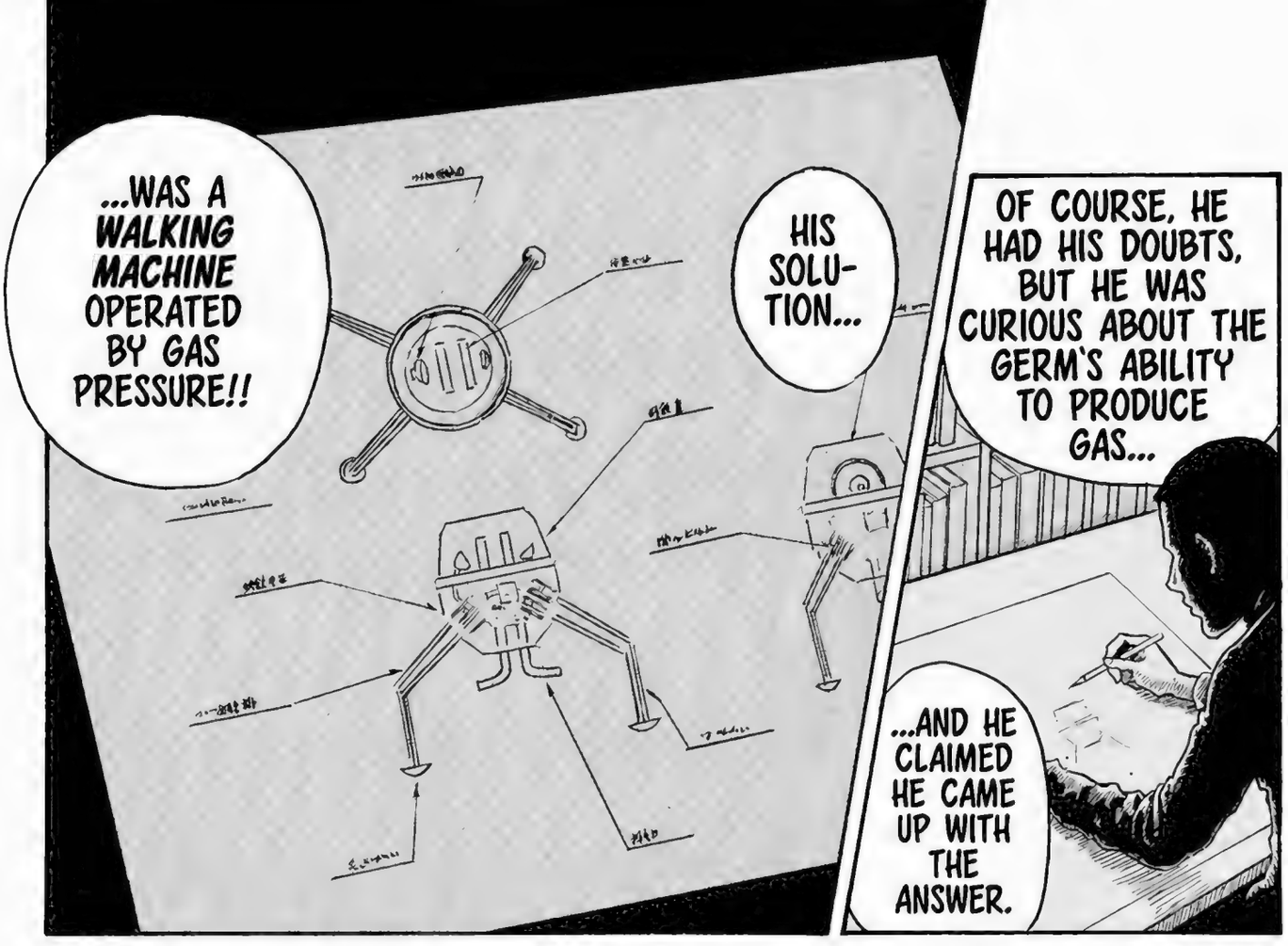
THAT'S WHEN THEIR SUPERVISORS REALIZED THAT IT COULD BE USED AS A WEAPON.
THE SMELL WAS SO BAD, MANY OF THE RESEARCHERS BECAME ILL.

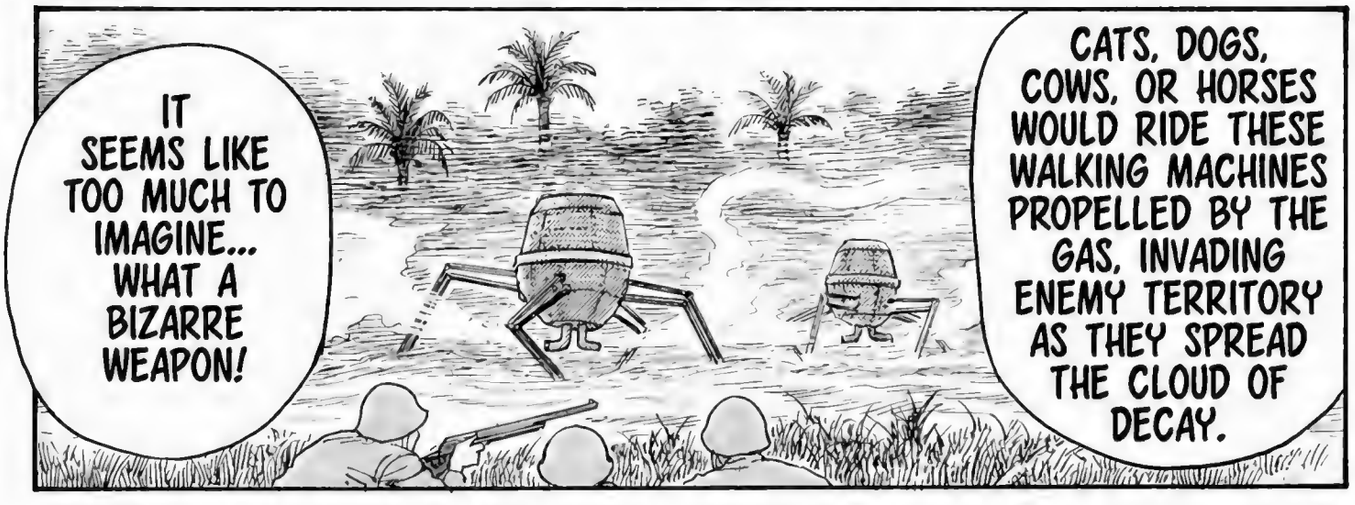
BUT AS JAPAN'S MILITARY POWER RAPIDLY DETERIORATED, THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE PROJECT OUT OF DESPERATION.
USING A SMELL AS A WEAPON SEEMS INEFFICIENT... WHAT A FOOLISH IDEA.

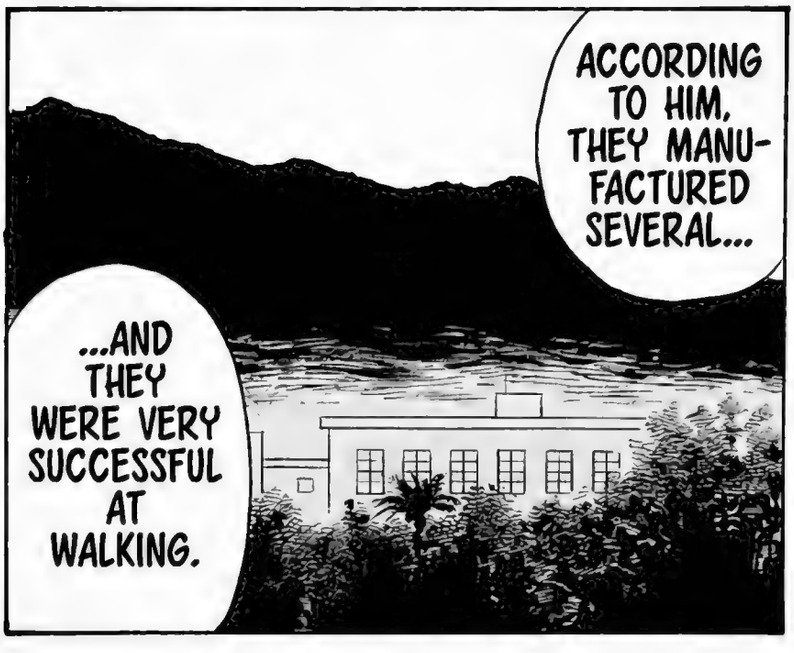

THE GERM DETERIORATED THE ANIMALS' NERVOUS SYSTEM, AND PARALYZED THEM BEFORE THEY COULD TRAVEL FAR ENOUGH TO SPREAD THE SMELL.
BUT THE PLAN RAN INTO A PROB-LEM.

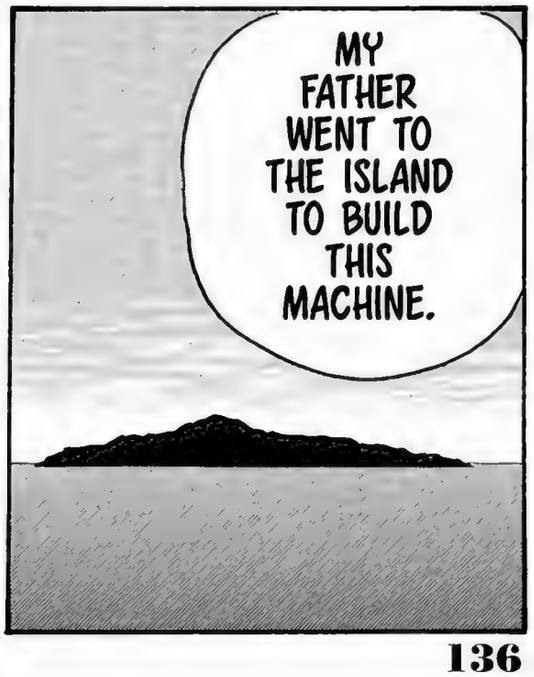
THEIR FIRST IDEA WAS TO SEND IN WAVES OF INFECTED DOGS AND CATS TO NAUSEATE THE ENEMY.
IT MIGHT HAVE WORKED IN CLOSE-QUARTERS COMBAT, ISLAND BY ISLAND, JUNGLE BY JUNGLE.

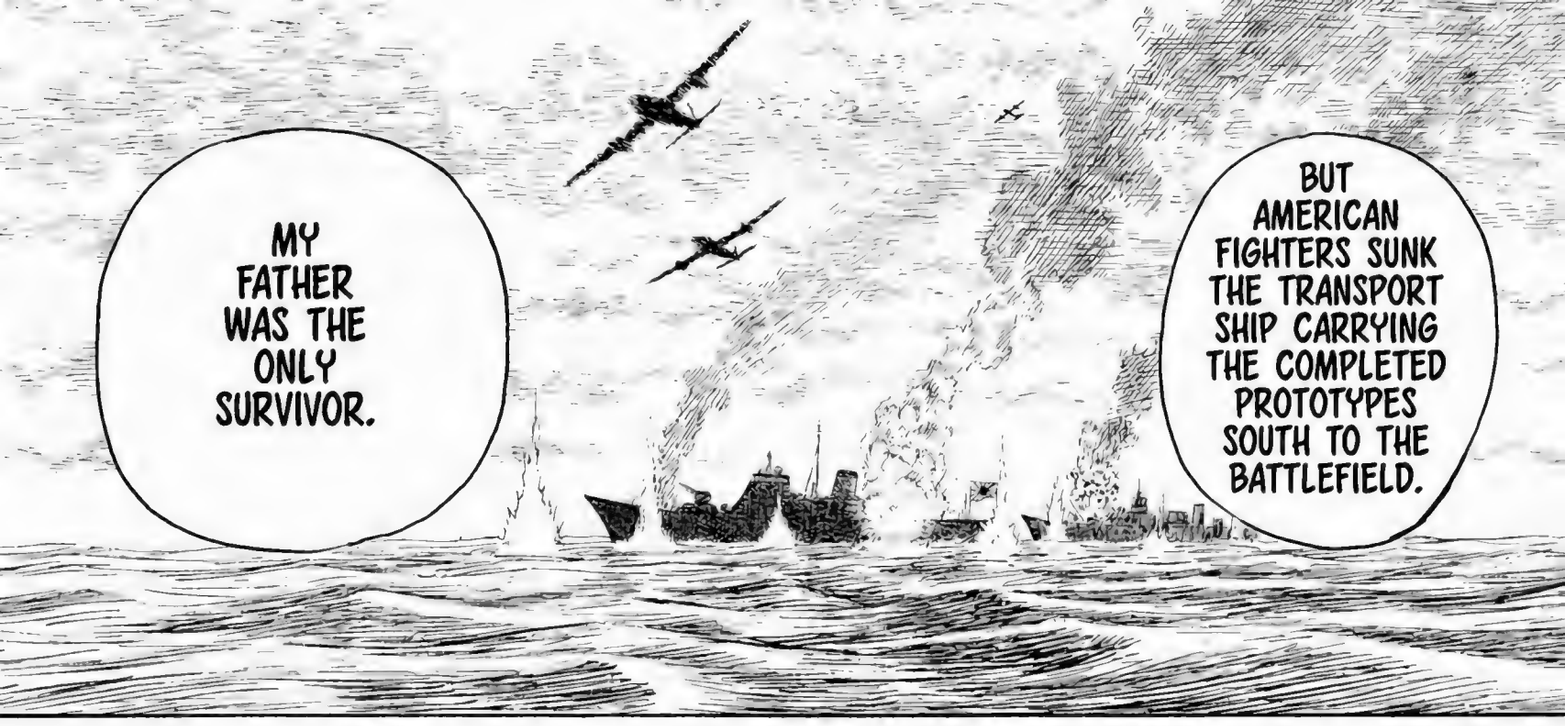

AND SO THEY ASKED A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST ...MY FATHER.
THEY NEEDED A BETTER MEDIUM FOR TRANS-MISSION.


...WAS A WALKING MACHINE OPERATED BY GAS PRESSURE!!
HIS SOLU-TION...
OF COURSE, HE HAD HIS DOUBTS, BUT HE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE GERM'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE GAS...
...AND HE CLAIMED HE CAME UP WITH THE ANSWER.

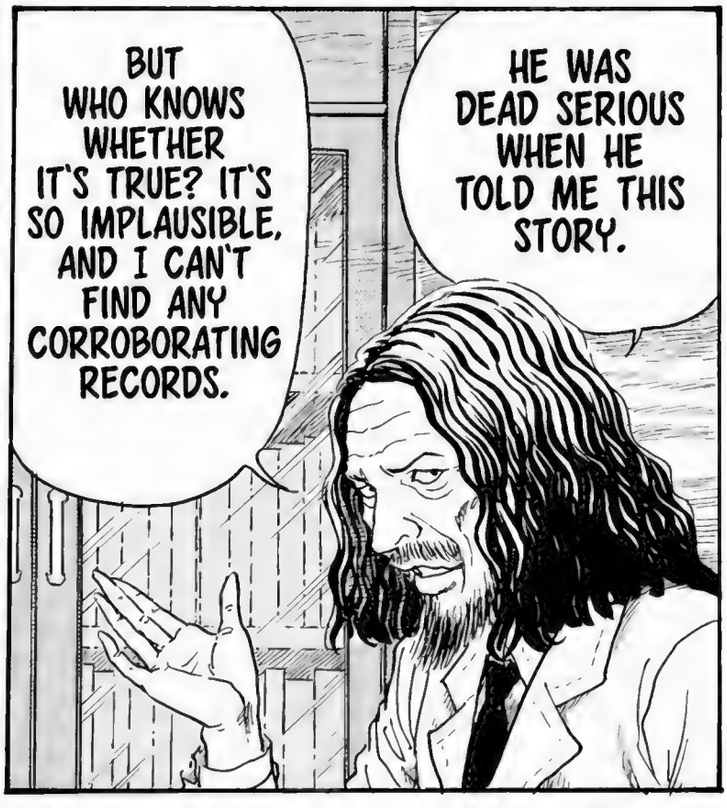

IT SEEMS LIKE TOO MUCH TO IMAGINE... WHAT A BIZARRE WEAPON!
CATS, DOGS, COWS, OR HORSES WOULD RIDE THESE WALKING MACHINES PROPELLED BY THE GAS, INVADING ENEMY TERRITORY AS THEY SPREAD THE CLOUD OF DECAY.


ACCORDING TO HIM, THEY MANU-FACTURED SEVERAL...
...AND THEY WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL AT WALKING.


MY FATHER WENT TO THE ISLAND TO BUILD THIS MACHINE.


MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
BUT AMERICAN FIGHTERS SUNK THE TRANSPORT SHIP CARRYING THE COMPLETED PROTOTYPES SOUTH TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

WELL... IT'S REALLY WEIRD...
FOR A LONG TIME, I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM. BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?


BUT WHO KNOWS WHETHER IT'S TRUE? IT'S SO IMPLAUSIBLE, AND I CAN'T FIND ANY CORROBORATING RECORDS.
HE WAS DEAD SERIOUS WHEN HE TOLD ME THIS STORY.

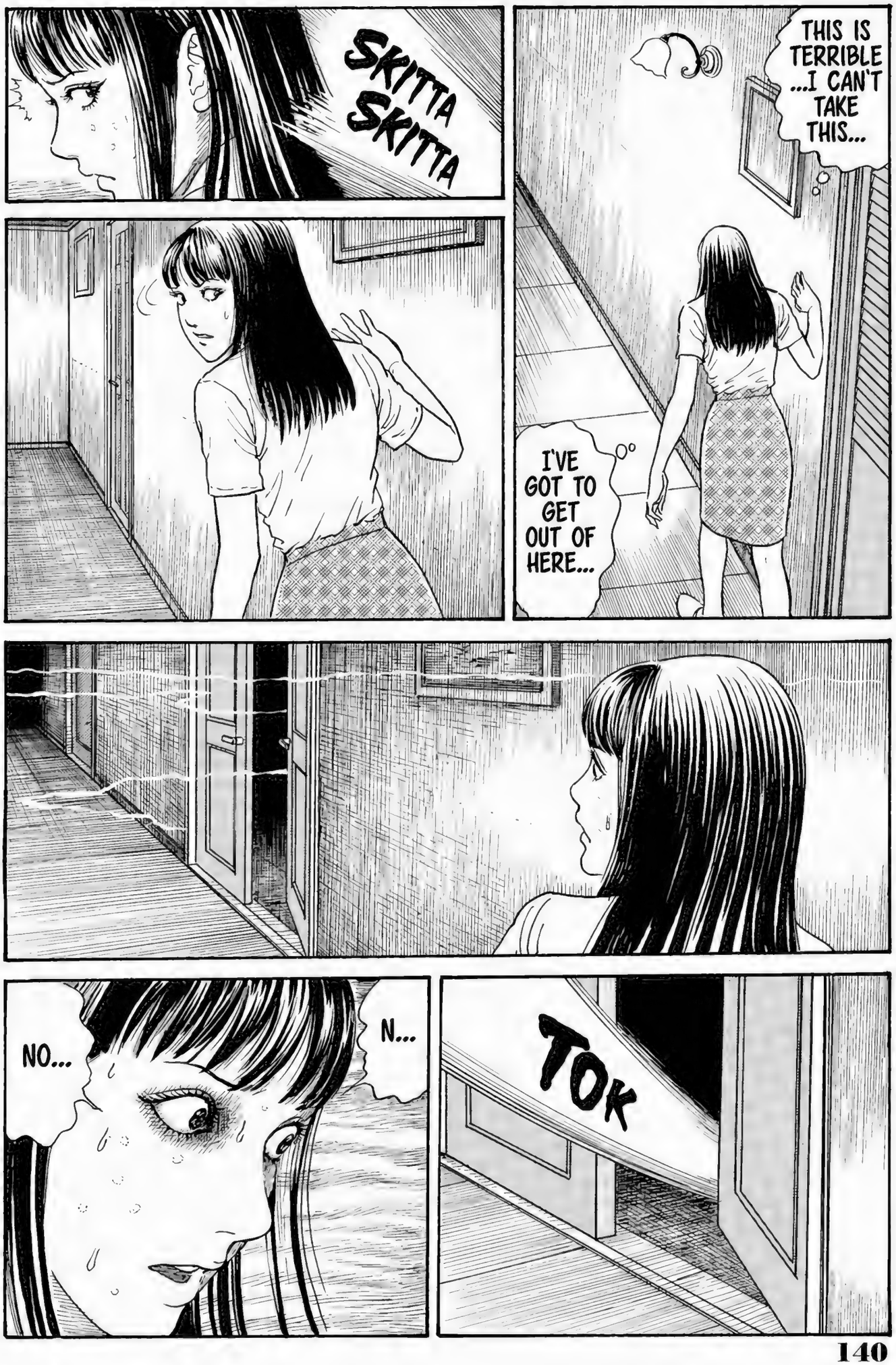
NO... CAN I USE YOUR BATH-ROOM?

KAORI, DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT?

Z

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU WALK?
YES, SIR.
THAT'S NOT GOOD...YOSHIYAMA, CAN YOU TAKE HER THERE?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONTACT HER PARENTS.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU!
WHAM
I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE CARE OF HER...
YES...
WHAT? SO SHE'S ALL ALONE?
UM...ACTUALLY HER PARENTS DIVORCED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG AND SHE'S NOT IN TOUCH WITH THEM ANYMORE.

FLOOSH
CHAK
OH NO... WHAT ARE THESE BOILS ...?
WHAT ?
CHAK


SKITTA SKITTA
THIS IS TERRIBLE ...I CAN'T TAKE THIS...
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...
NO...
N...
TOK

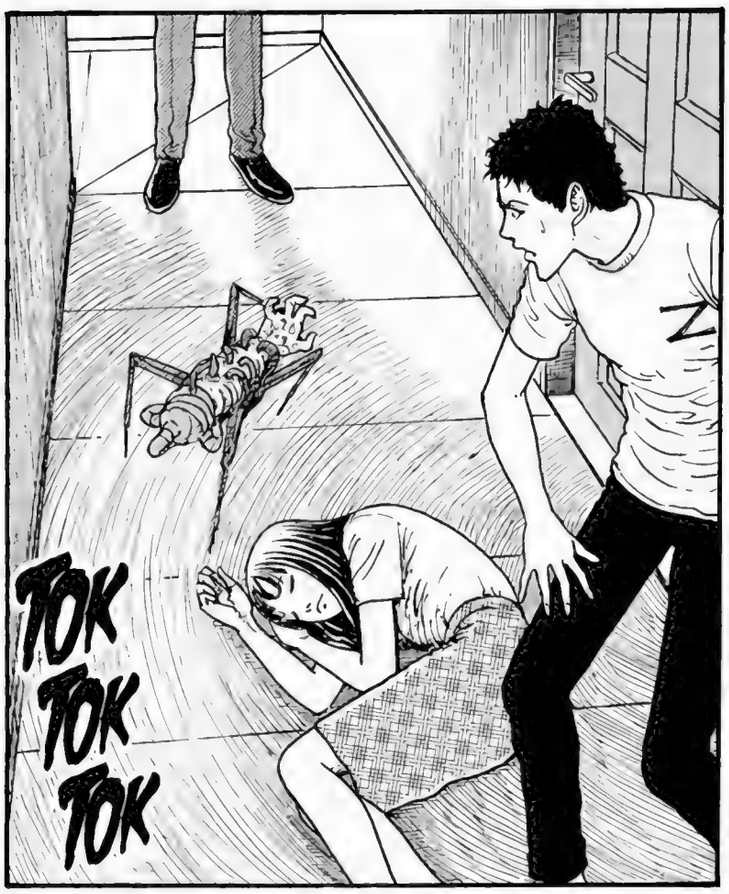
N-
NO...
NO!
DON'T
!
FSSSSSHHHHHHHHHH
TOK
SKITA SKITA SKI
AIEEE!!
THP

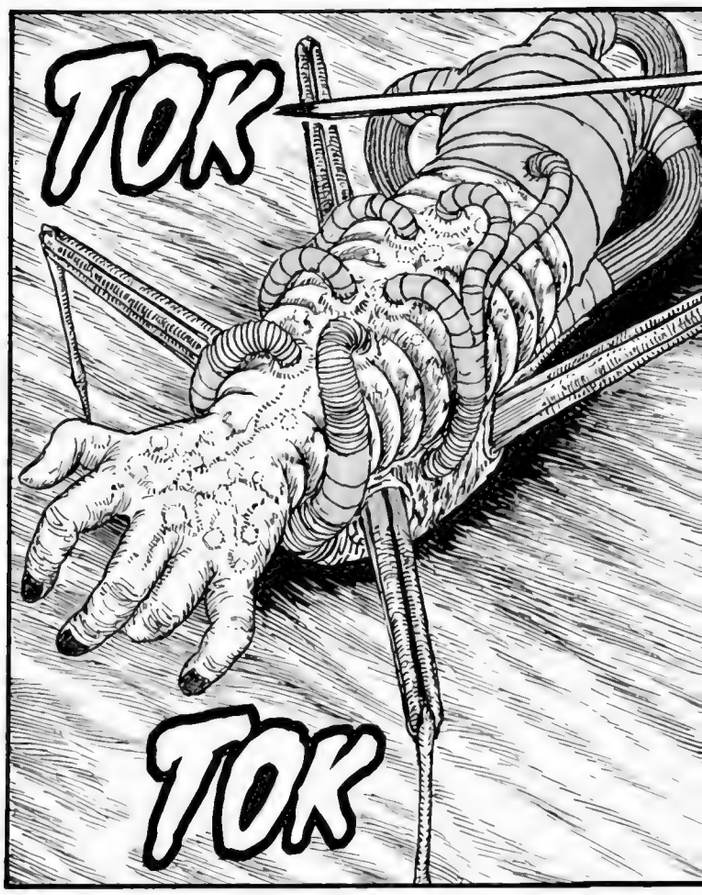
REALLY !?
WHAT !?
I ANALYZED THAT WALKING FISH.
SO ANYWAYS, TADASHI...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
FUSED ...?
THE LEGS AND THE FISH WERE SYNTHETIC-ALLY FUSED TOGETHER!
YES... THAT FISH DIDN'T GROW LEGS...
AAAIIEEEEEE!!

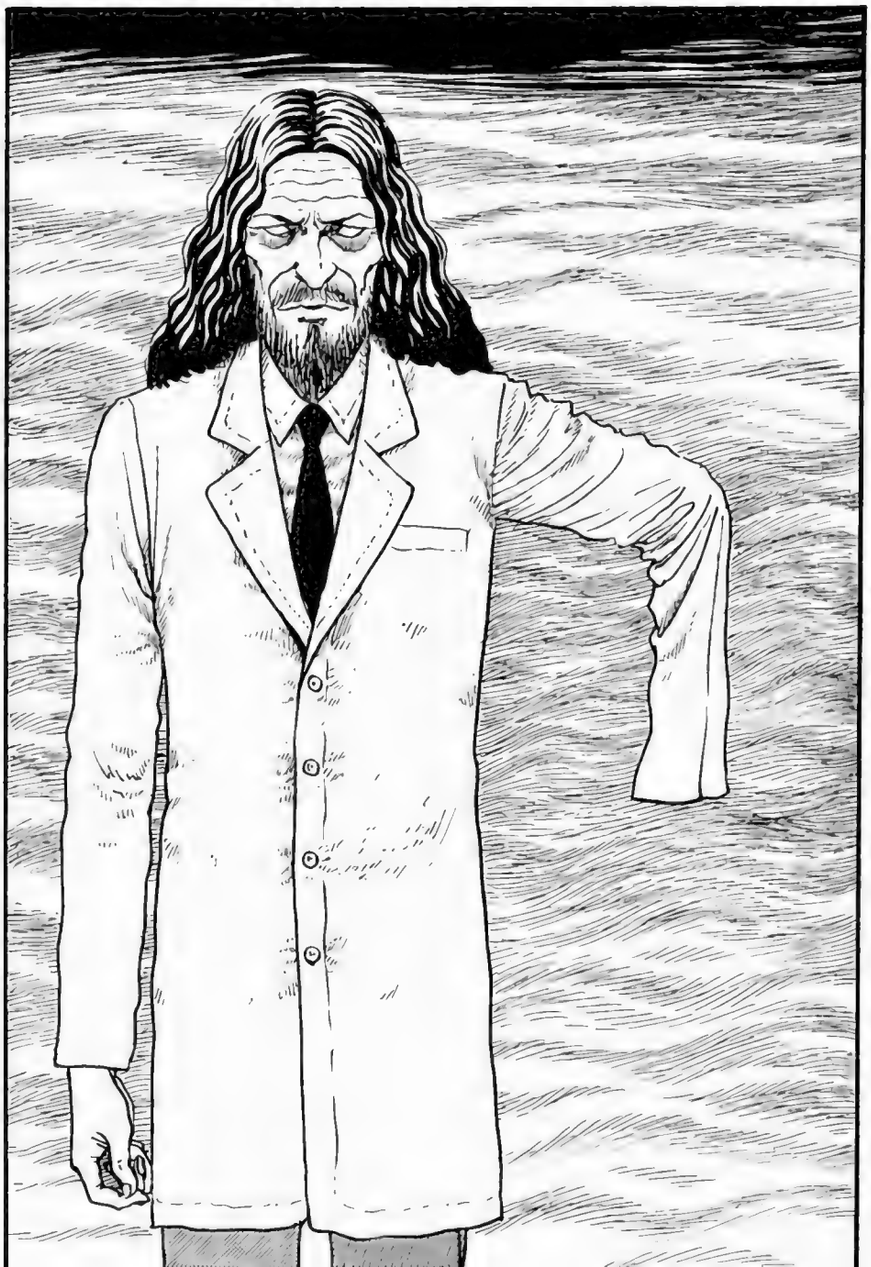
KAORI !
KAORI, WHAT'S WRONG !?
THAT WAS KAORI !
FSSSSHHHHHHHH
WHAT ...!?
KAORI !?

WH... WHAT THE HELL...?

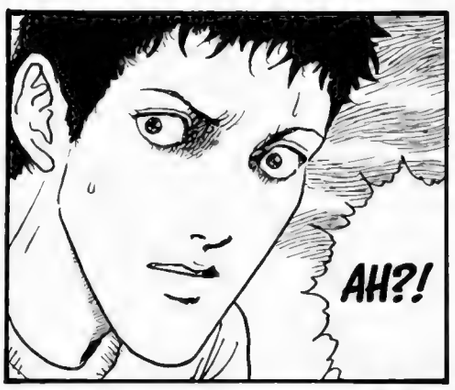
8 / Infection

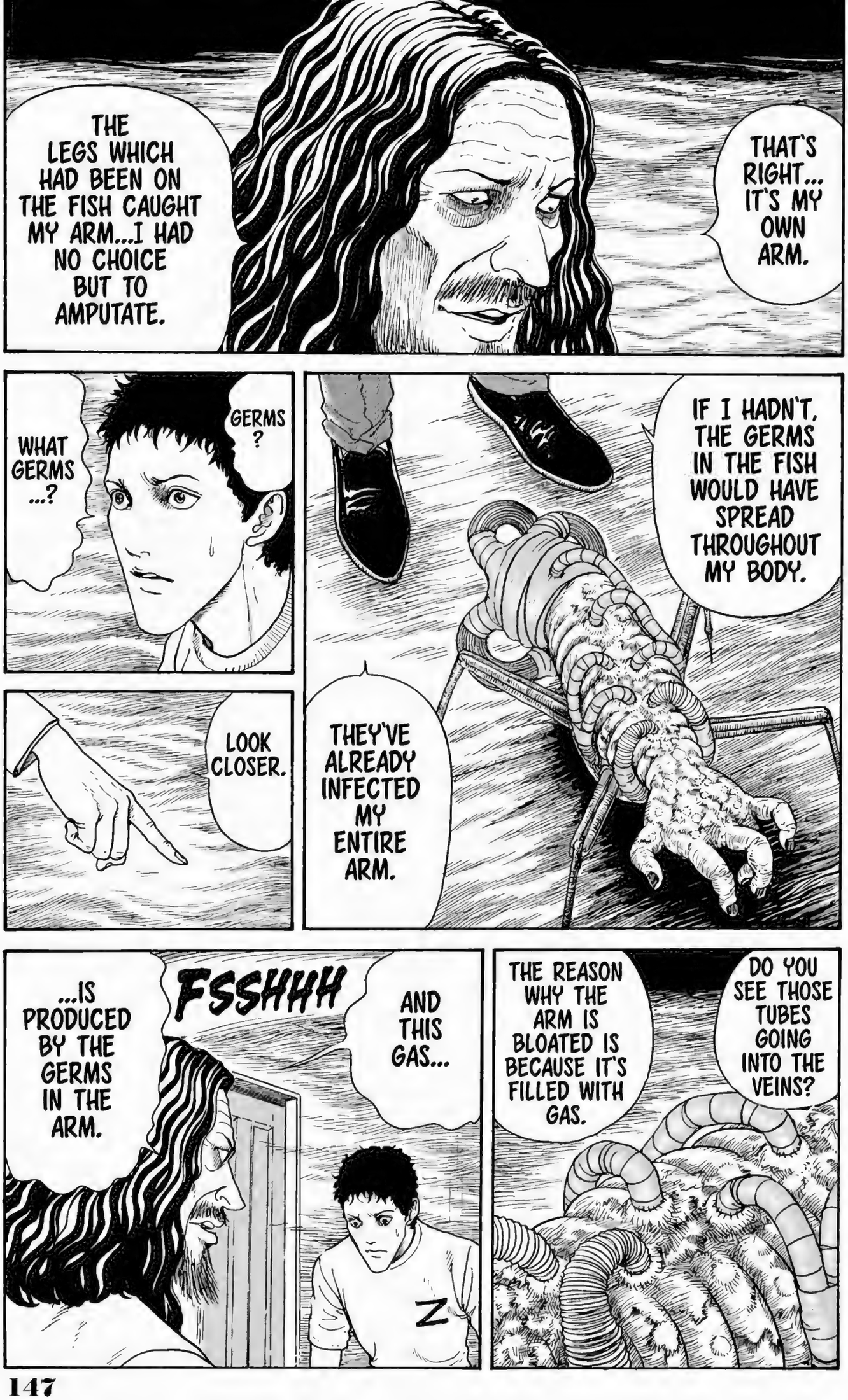

TOK
TOK
TOK


TOK
TOK



WHAT IS THIS...?
U-UNCLE...


AH?!


THE LEGS WHICH HAD BEEN ON THE FISH CAUGHT MY ARM...I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO AMPUTATE.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S MY OWN ARM.
WHAT GERMS ...?
GERMS ?
LOOK CLOSER.
IF I HADN'T, THE GERMS IN THE FISH WOULD HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT MY BODY.
THEY'VE ALREADY INFECTED MY ENTIRE ARM.
...IS PRODUCED BY THE GERMS IN THE ARM.
FSSHHH
AND THIS GAS...
Z
THE REASON WHY THE ARM IS BLOATED IS BECAUSE IT'S FILLED WITH GAS.
DO YOU SEE THOSE TUBES GOING INTO THE VEINS?

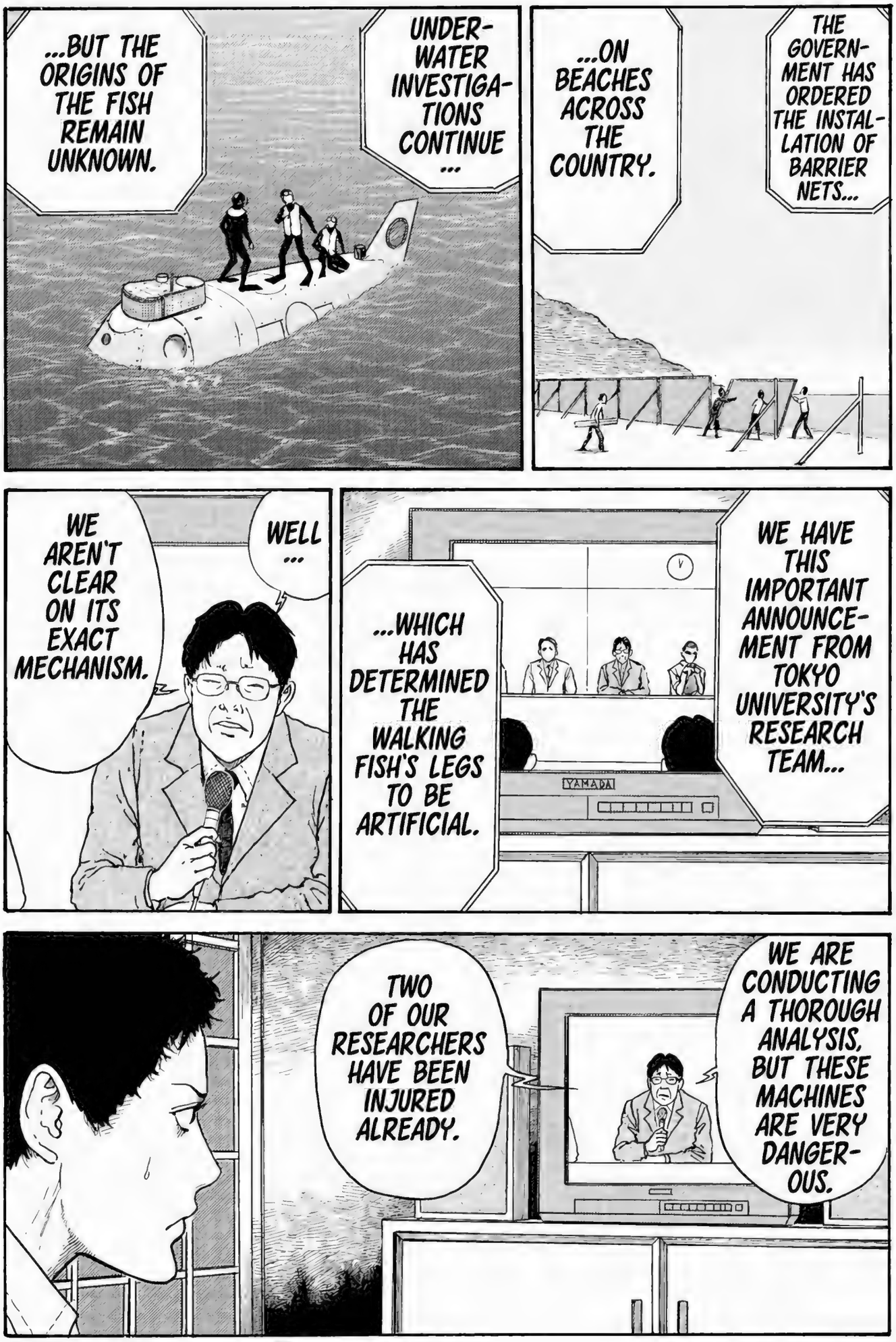
AND, AS I EXPECTED, THE LEGS STARTED TO MOVE.
TWIK TWIK
FSHHHH
IN NOT TOO LONG I COULD HEAR THE GAS PASSING THROUGH...
AFTER MY ARM CAME OFF, I INSERTED THESE TUBES INTO THE TISSUE.
THE DISSECTION WAS DIFFICULT. ITS BODY AND LEGS WERE ALL MADE OF METAL... NO SCREWS, NO SEAMS... LIKE AN ORGANIC WHOLE.
I WAS EXCITED, SO I TOOK IT APART TO SEE HOW IT WORKED.
...AND TUBES WHOSE GAS PRESSURE MOVES THE LEGS.
BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE VERY SIMPLE. BASICALLY IT'S MADE UP OF PISTONS AND CYLINDERS...
Exhaust

THE CONTRAST IS TRULY SHOCKING...
BUT DESPITE ITS SIMPLICITY, LOOK HOW COMPLEX ITS LEG MOVEMENTS ARE!
TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK
THE FRONT LEFT LEG WAS BROKEN... PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU CRUSHED IT BEHIND YOUR DRESSER.
IT WAS EASY TO REPAIR ...
TWIK
TWIK
INSTEAD OF THE FISH, NOW IT'S MY ARM THAT'S WALKING!
JUST LOOK AT IT GO!
TOK TOK
TOK
I BELIEVE THIS ARTICULATION IS DUE TO THE GERM'S IRREGULAR PRODUCTION OF GAS.
TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK
THIS MACHINE MOVES LIKE AN ORGANISM BECAUSE THE GERM IS ALIVE!

...ARE RIDING ON THESE MACHINES ?
THE FISH SWARMING JAPAN NOW...
YOU MEAN ...
THEN ...
THEIR GILLS AND ANAL CAVITY ARE CLOGGED, SO THEY CAN ONLY DIE ONCE THEY'RE OUT OF THE WATER... THEY ONLY PROVIDE THE ENERGY SOURCE OF THE MACHINE.
YES...BUT THE FISH HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THEY'RE PROBABLY DEAD BY THE TIME THEY'RE ON LAND.
FSSSHHHH
YOU DON'T THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WALKING MACHINE GRANDFATHER DESIGNED DURING THE WAR?
IT'S LIKE THE STORY YOU TOLD ME...
WHO WOULD DO THIS... AND WHY?
BUT...

THE GERMS ...
BUT THEN ...
BUT IT IS TRUE THAT THE OBJECT MY FATHER CLAIMED TO HAVE DESIGNED IS WALKING AROUND IN FRONT OF OUR VERY OWN EYES...
WELL... I DON'T KNOW...
CAN IT INFECT HUMANS, TOO?
...WERE DEVELOPED DURING THE WAR, RIGHT!?
THE GERMS THAT INFECTED YOUR ARM...
B-BUT... IF THE GERMS ARE IN THE GAS, THEY MUST BE EVERYWHERE BY NOW!
CALM DOWN, TADASHI. THAT WAS JUST SOME NONSENSE MY FATHER CAME UP WITH.

HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS. THE "WALKING FISH" ARE IN WESTERN JAPAN.
ALTHOUGH THE INFESTATION IS HEAVIEST BY THE COAST, IN SOME AREAS FISH HAVE BEEN SIGHTED AS FAR AS 15KM INLAND.
IN METRO-POLITAN AREAS, FATAL AUTOMOBILE COLLISIONS WITH LARGER FISH HAVE CLOSED STREETS.
WE DON'T HAVE A CASUALTY COUNT AT THIS TIME.
HOSPITALS ARE RECEIVING PATIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED AND RUN OVER BY THE FISH...
...AS WELL AS LOCALS SUFFERING NAUSEA FROM THE SMELL.
YAMADA
ALL FISHING AND ACTIVITY IN JAPAN'S PORTS HAVE COME TO A HALT AS THE GOVERN-MENT ISSUED A STRICT ADVISORY AGAINST PRIVATE MARINE TRAVEL.
FURTHER-MORE, WE HAVE REPORTS OF WALKING FISH IN TOKYO BAY...
YAMADA
...WITH CONCERNS THAT THEY WILL SOON MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE KANTO REGION.
AS AN EMER-GENCY MEASURE TO PREVENT THE INVASION ...
YAMADA

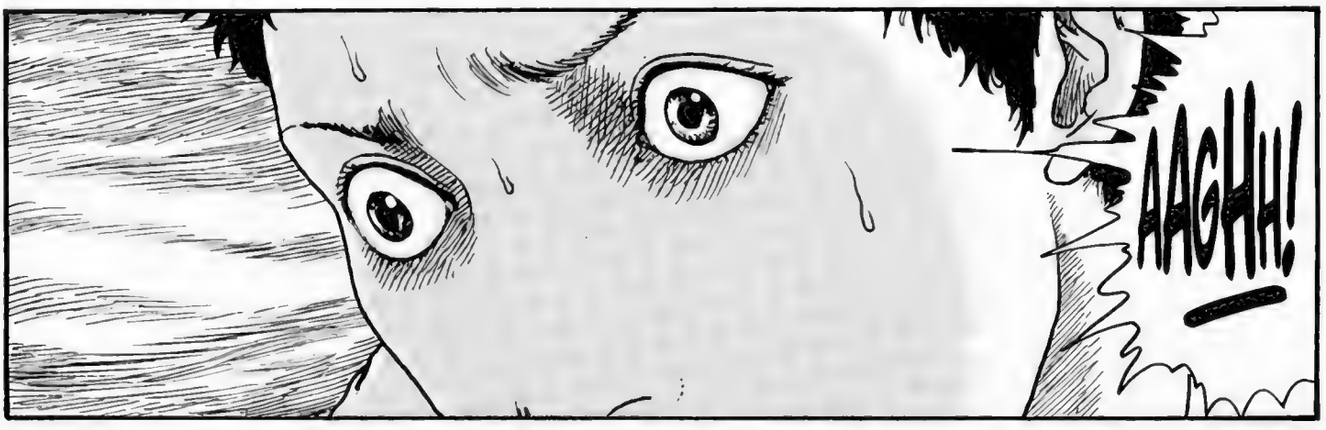

...BUT THE ORIGINS OF THE FISH REMAIN UNKNOWN.
UNDER-WATER INVESTIGA-TIONS CONTINUE ...
...ON BEACHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
THE GOVERN-MENT HAS ORDERED THE INSTAL-LATION OF BARRIER NETS...
WE AREN'T CLEAR ON ITS EXACT MECHANISM.
WELL ...
...WHICH HAS DETERMINED THE WALKING FISH'S LEGS TO BE ARTIFICIAL.
YAMADA
WE HAVE THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCE-MENT FROM TOKYO UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH TEAM...
TWO OF OUR RESEARCHERS HAVE BEEN INJURED ALREADY.
WE ARE CONDUCTING A THOROUGH ANALYSIS, BUT THESE MACHINES ARE VERY DANGER-OUS.

IF WHAT UNCLE KOYANAGI SAID WAS TRUE, THEN SOMEONE INVOLVED IN THE EXPERIMENTS SHOULD HAVE COME FORWARD ALREADY...
...OR MAYBE THE GOVERNMENT COVERED IT UP.
NONE OF THE NETWORKS HAVE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GERMS...
I WAS STUNG IN THE HAND SEVERAL TIMES...
SO IF THERE REALLY ARE GERMS I SHOULD BE--
...

KAORI ...
I'M COMING IN.
NO, DON'T!

I'M COMING IN!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOTHING?" YOU'VE SHUT YOURSELF IN THERE SINCE YESTER-DAY!!
NOTHING! STAY OUT!
WHAT'S WRONG, KAORI?
URGH ...
CHAK

YOU GET OUT!!
NO!
KAORI... GET OUT OF THE ROOM!
THIS IS AWFUL!
FSSSSHHHHHHH
HUH ?!
I THOUGHT YOU HATED IT!
DON'T BE CRAZY! HOW CAN YOU STAND THIS SMELL?!
FWOOSH
KAORI !!
THE CREATURE'S IN THIS ROOM!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, KAORI!? IT'S THE SOUND OF THE CREATURE!!
URGH ...


AAGHH!

URGH ...
UG...
YOU... ARE KAORI, RIGHT ?
K-KAORI ...
FSSSHHHHH
FSSHH
HUH!?

IT STINKS... WHY... WHY... !?
AHH... NO--!!
SHOOOOOOSH
SHOW ME THE MIRROR !
NO !!
KAORI... FORGET ABOUT THE MIRROR. LET'S GO TO THE HOSPITAL !
UNNH...MY FACE FEELS FUNNY...TADASHI, BRING ME THE MIRROR...
UGGH...MY BODY FEELS NUMB...
FINE, I'LL LOOK FOR MYSELF.

EEYAA!
CHAK
FSSSSRRRRRR
NO... NO!!
IS...IS THIS REALLY ME!?
I SMELL LIKE THOSE MONSTERS !!
FSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
AHH... THAT SMELL... IT'S THE SMELL OF THOSE MONSTERS !!

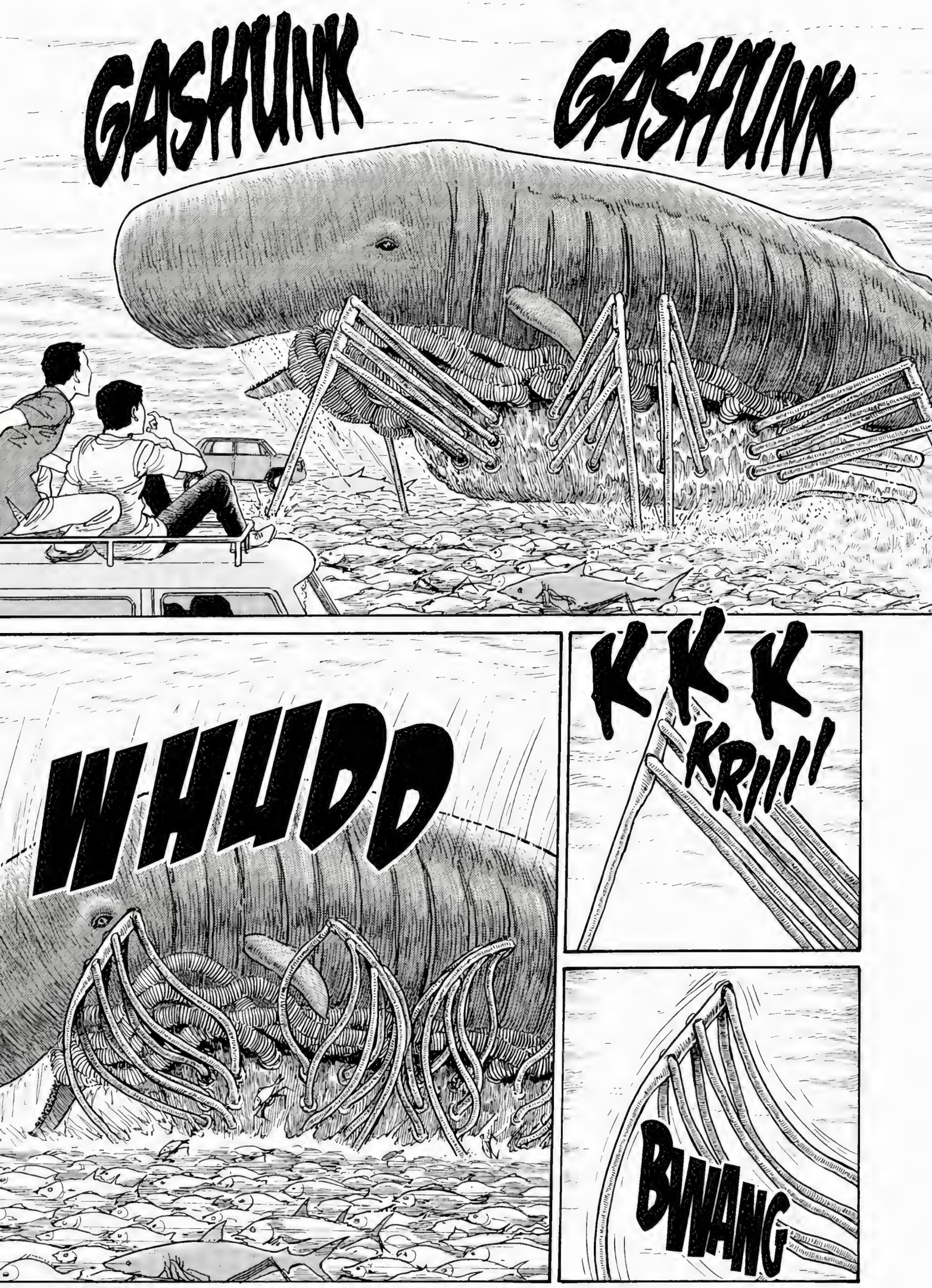
GET OUT!!
GET OUT OF HERE!
CALM DOWN ...
KAORI ...
ESHH
HA
WHAT IS GOING ON?
WH...

THE WALKING FISH HAVE ENTERED THE KANTO AREA!
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU THIS EMERGENCY REPORT!!
IN ADDITION TO SURUGA BAY AND SAGAMI BAY, THEY ARE NOW SWARMING THE KUJUKURIHAMA AREA AS WELL!!
THE BARRIER NETS HAVE PROVEN TO BE COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE IN HOLDING BACK THE INVASION!
THEY ARE SWARMING... THIS USED TO BE A BEACH!
WE HAVE THIS LIVE BROADCAST!
9 / The Death-Stench Invades, Part 1

RRRRRRRRRRR
MMMMMM

RRRRRRRRRRR
GASHUNK
WAAH!
SHOSSH
SHOSSH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
AAAH! LOOK OVER THERE!!

RRRRR
RRRRR
A-A WHALE !?
MMMMMMMMMMMMMM


GASHUNK
GASHUNK
WHUDD
KKK
KRIII
BWANG

PSSHHHH
THE LEGS COULDN'T TAKE THE WEIGHT!!
LOOK, ITS LEGS ARE BENDING.
MY CAMERA FELL OFF THE TRUCK!!
HEY, DID YOU GET THAT?
WHAT!? YOU IDIOT!!
WHAT ...
WHAT THE HELL DO THEY WANT?
RRR
THE CAR WON'T MOVE!
RRRRRRR
WE'LL NEVER GET IT OUT FROM UNDER THOSE FISH! THEY KEEP COMING! LET'S GET BACK TO TOWN!
Y-YOU IDIOT!!

...OF THE EMERGENCY OFFICE OF RELIEF COORDINATION...
OOOOOOO
WEEEEOOOO
THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION...
SHFF
UWAAGH!
AARGH!
AIEEE!
SO THEY'RE HERE.

STOP IT!
KAORI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
HEY !

I'D RATHER DIE THAN BLOW OUT THIS AWFUL SMELL!
I WANT TO DIE!
FSSHH
AHUHH ...
WUHH ...

BE HONEST !!
YOU MUST THINK I'M DISGUSTING!
AND I CAN'T EVEN MOVE RIGHT...
THESE UGLY BOILS ALL OVER MY BODY...
DON'T YOU LIE TO ME!
YOU'LL FIND A PRETTIER WOMAN WHO DOESN'T SMELL, RIGHT!?
DON'T LIE!! YOU'RE GOING TO GET RID OF ME, RIGHT!?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KAORI...
OH, TADASHI... PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME.
SHE'S PRETTY! YOU LIKE HER, DON'T YOU!?
THAT'S RIGHT... LIKE YOUR UNCLE'S LAB ASSISTANT...
ENOUGH! YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!

THE INFECTED ANIMALS PRODUCED INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF GAS FROM THEIR TISSUES AND STOMACH ...
THEIR NERVOUS SYSTEM DETERIORATED, AND EVENTUALLY THEY WERE PARALYZED...
WHAT CAN I DO...?
CLICK
SO PRETTY SOON... KAORI WILL...
KOYANAGI LABORA-TORY.
MS. YOSHIYAMA? THIS IS TADASHI. CAN I SPEAK TO MY UNCLE?
I'M SORRY, BUT HE'S TOO BUSY WITH HIS RESEARCH. HE CAN'T TAKE YOUR CALL.
B-BUT I NEED TO TALK TO HIM!! PLEASE LET ME TALK TO HIM!!

DAMN IT...
MS. YOSHI-YAMA!
I'M SORRY, SIR.
CLICK
YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED BY A TERRIBLE DISEASE. WE'LL HAVE YOU TREATED THERE.
KAORI... WE SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
AH-!?
CHAK
KAORI!
KAORI ...?
...

FSSSSS
SSHHHHHhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

KAORI !?
FSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH
WHUDD
SNARP
FSSS
HH
KAORI !!

GOT TO CALL AN AMBU-LANCE !
GOT TO...
KAORI !!
KAORI !!
I CAN'T GET THROUGH.
...
SHIT!
WEEOO
WEEOO
HONK
HONK
HONK
AGH!
WEEOO
WEEOO

WHA ?!
WEEOO
I'LL HAVE TO SEND SOMEONE FOR HIM...
THE SHARP LEGS MUST HAVE TRAMPLED HIM.
中野病院
Nakano Hospital
WEEOO
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!
WEEO
FSSHH
KAORI... HOLD ON.

院
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
OH NO!!!
GASHUNK

GASHUNK GASHUNK
HOLD ON TIGHT!!
KAORI ...
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK

NO !!
HUH !?
FSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHH

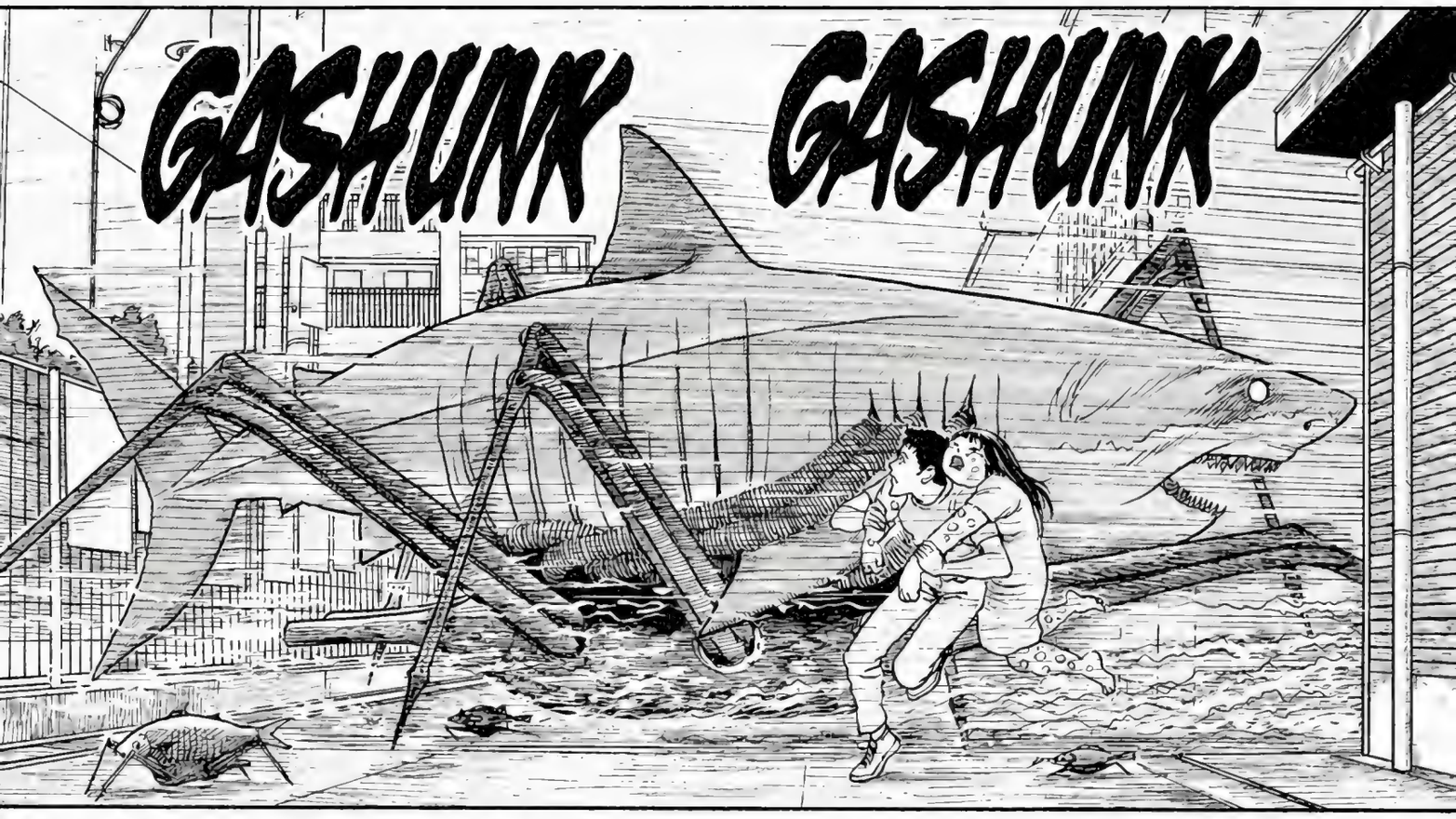
10 / The Death-Stench Invades, Part 2

GASHUNK GASHUNK
BAM
GASHUNK
AGGH!

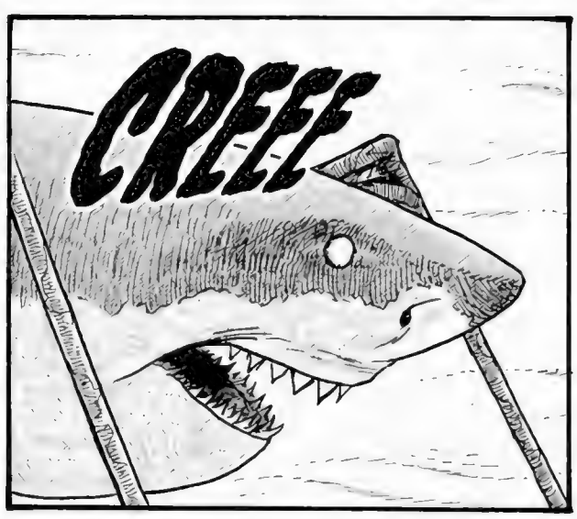
KLANK
KLANK
THOK
FSSHH
CREEEEK
CREEEEK

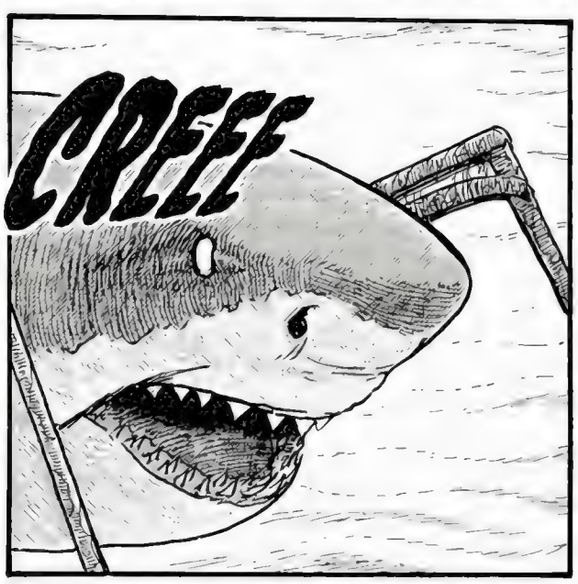
IMP
SWISH
THOK
FWOOSH
CREEE
SWWA
WAAGH!

WHAM
CREEEE CREEEE
KAORI... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
OWW...
AGGH!
GASHUNK GASHUNK

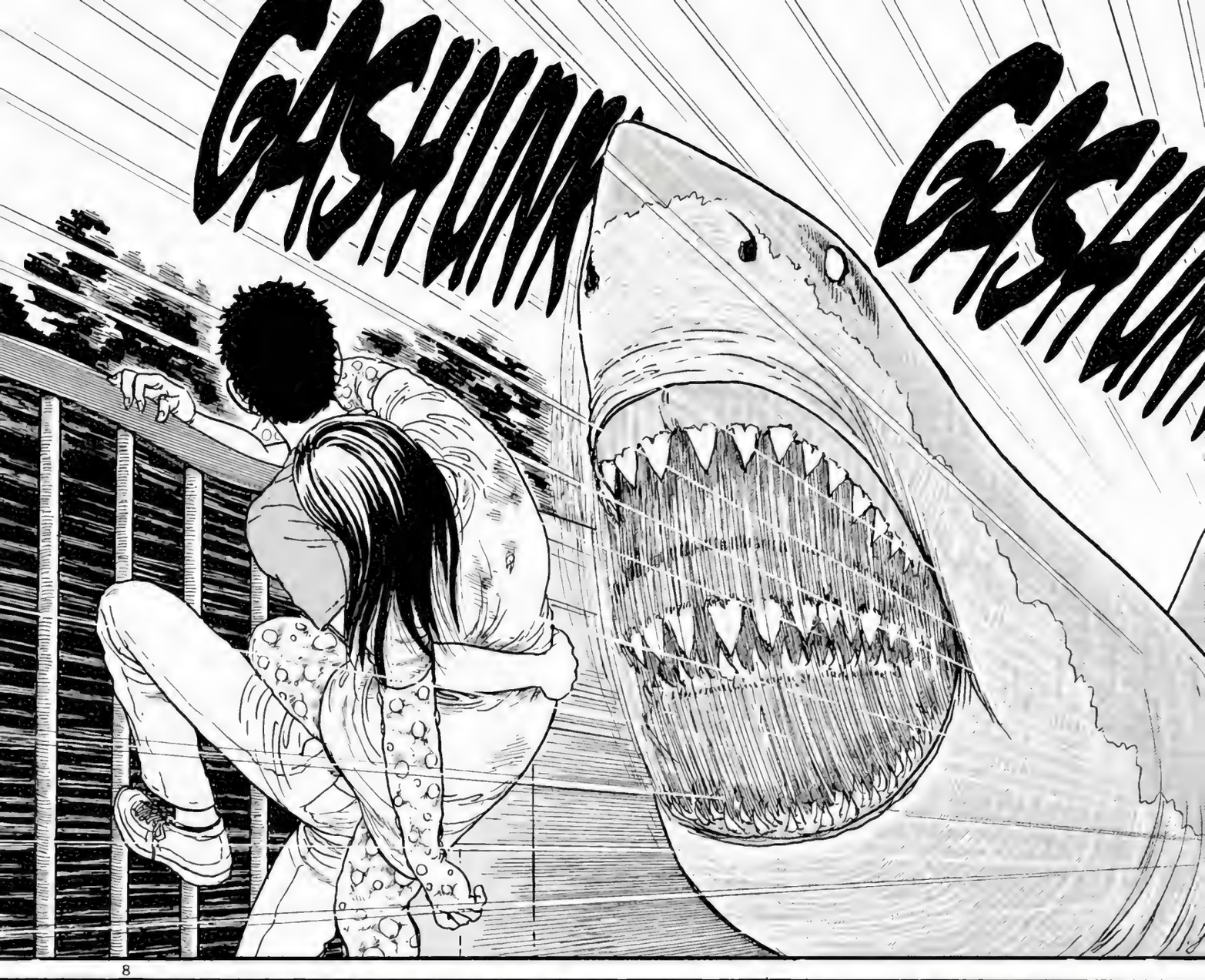

GASHUNK
GASHUNK

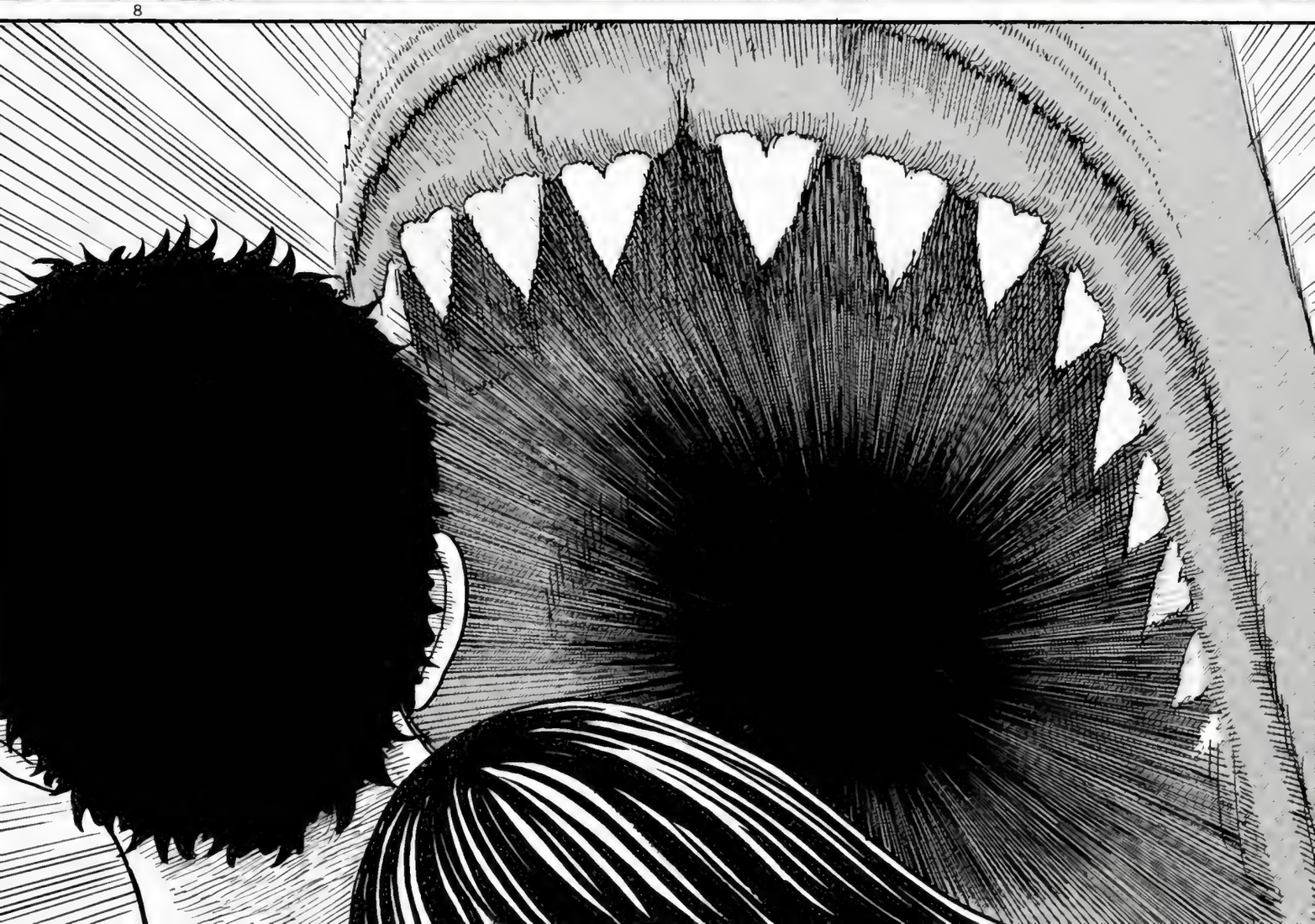
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

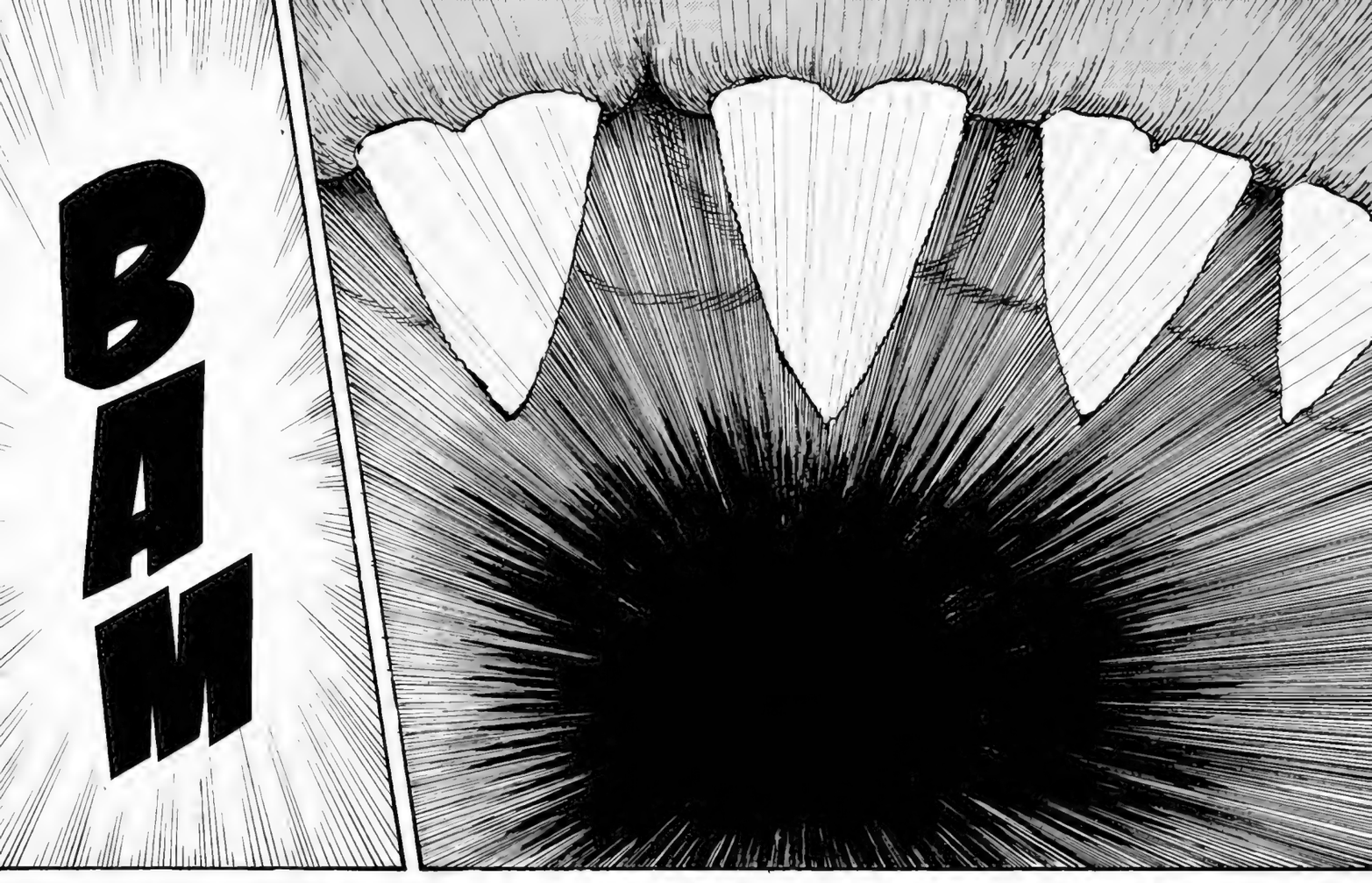

CREEE


CREEE

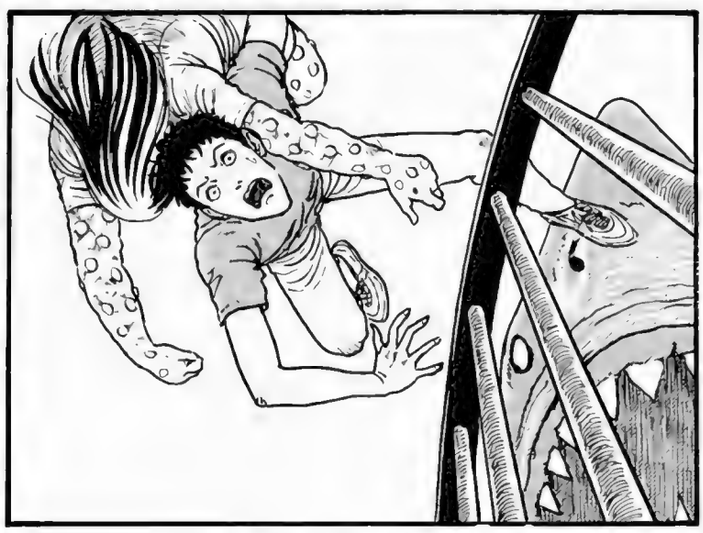
HEY, IT'S MY UNCLE'S HOUSE!
小柳研究所
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
柳研究所
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
TUGG
TMP


GASHUNK
GASHUNK



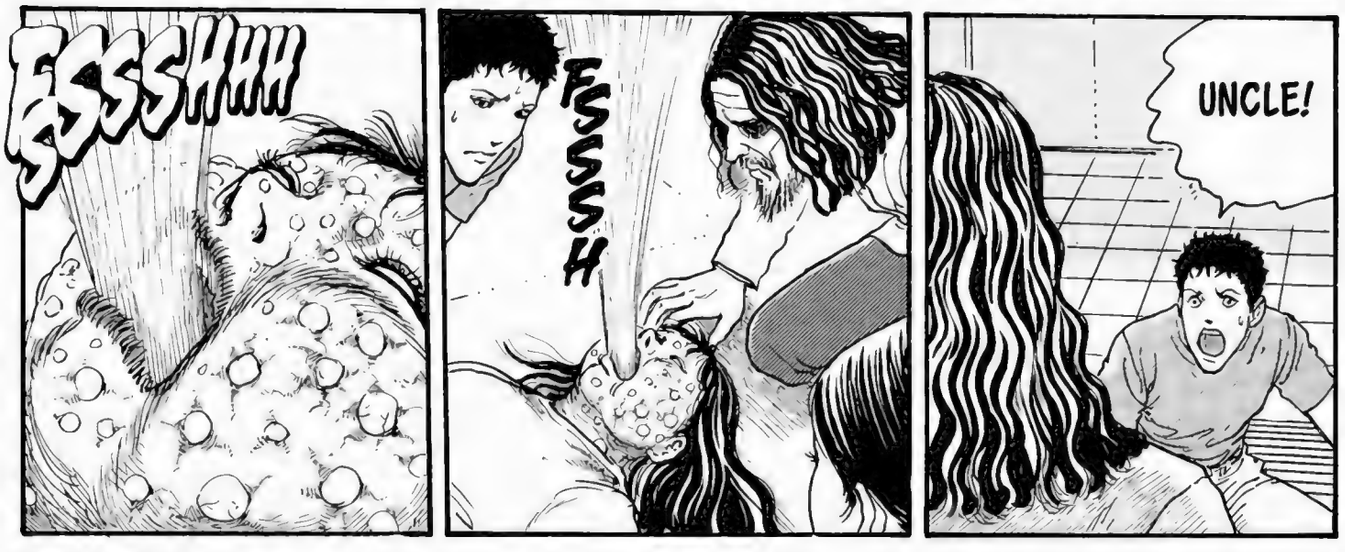

BAM

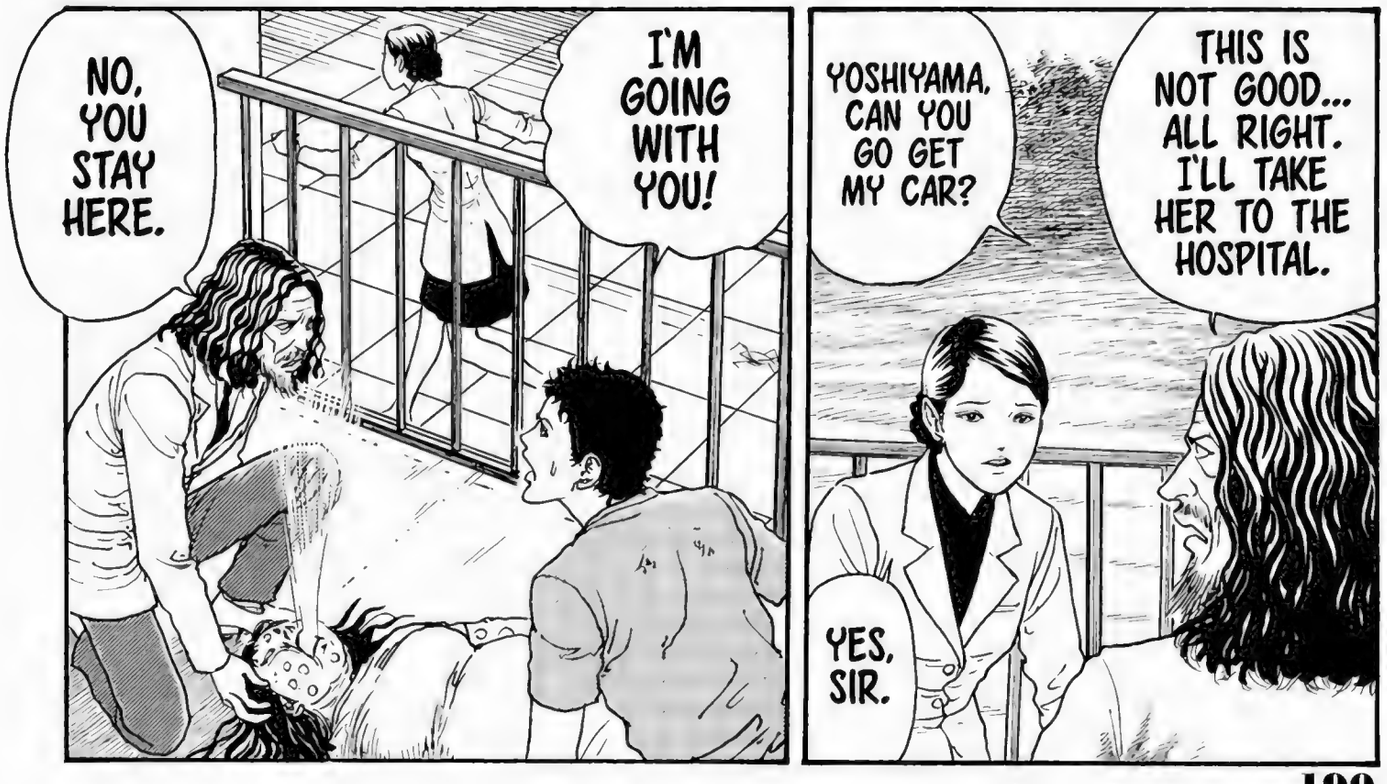
GAWK
GAWK
GAWK



WHAM

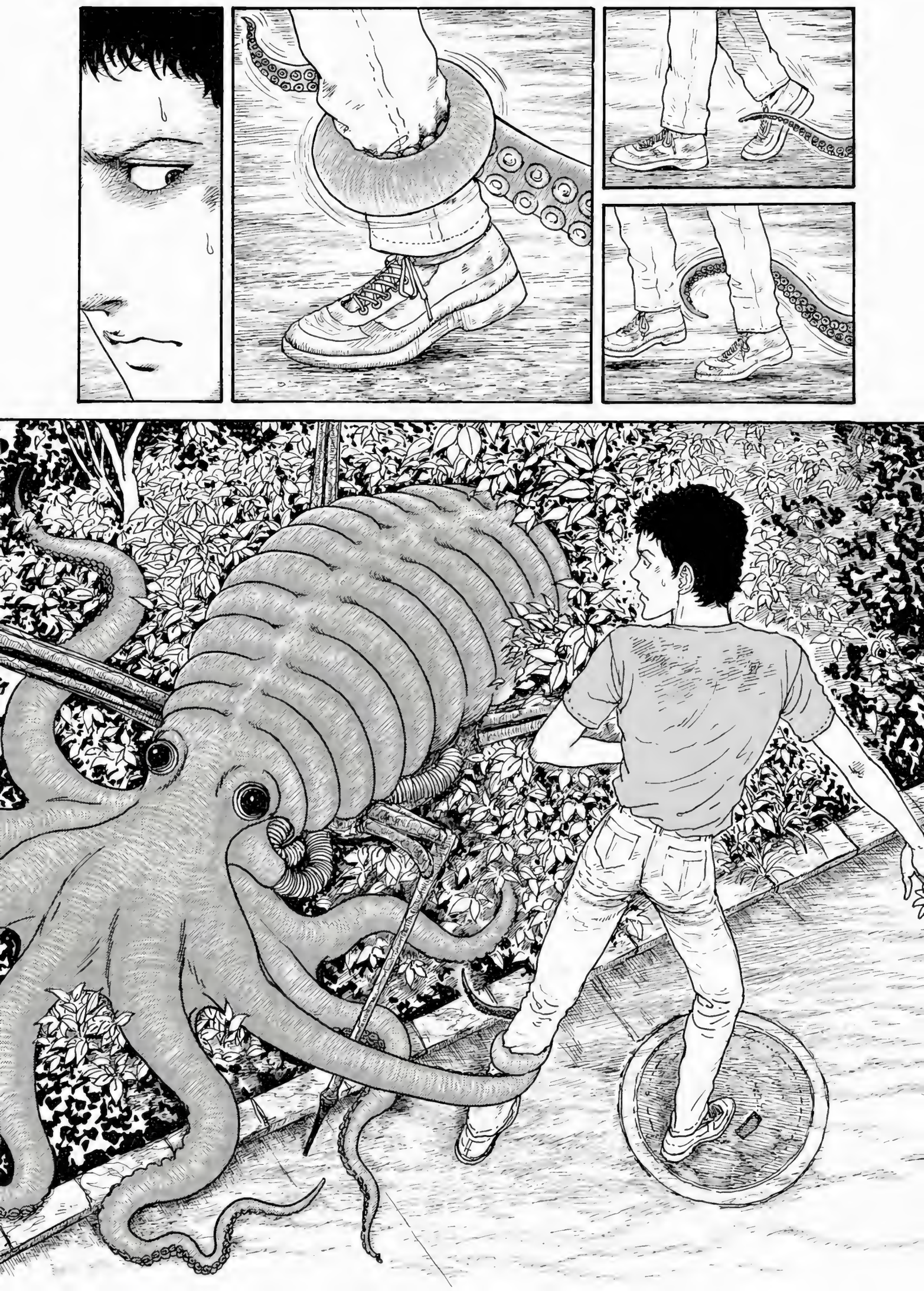
WE NEED TO CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!!
TADASHI ...WHAT IS IT?
KAORI... KAORI'S DYING!!
YOSHIYAMA ...A SHARK CHASED ME HERE...


SSSSHHH
FSSSSH
UNCLE!

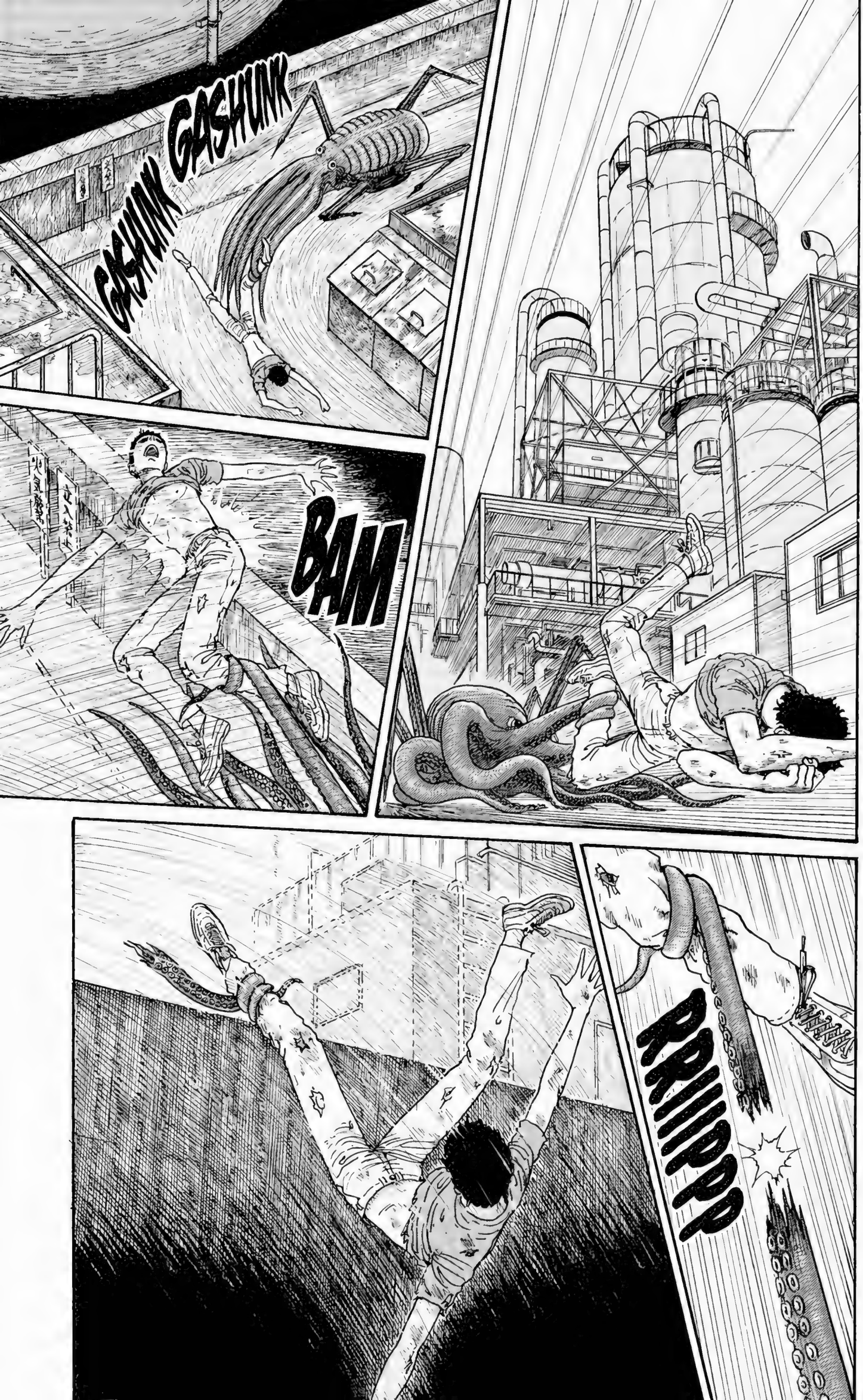

NO, YOU STAY HERE.
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
YOSHIYAMA, CAN YOU GO GET MY CAR?
THIS IS NOT GOOD... ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE HER TO THE HOSPITAL.
YES, SIR.

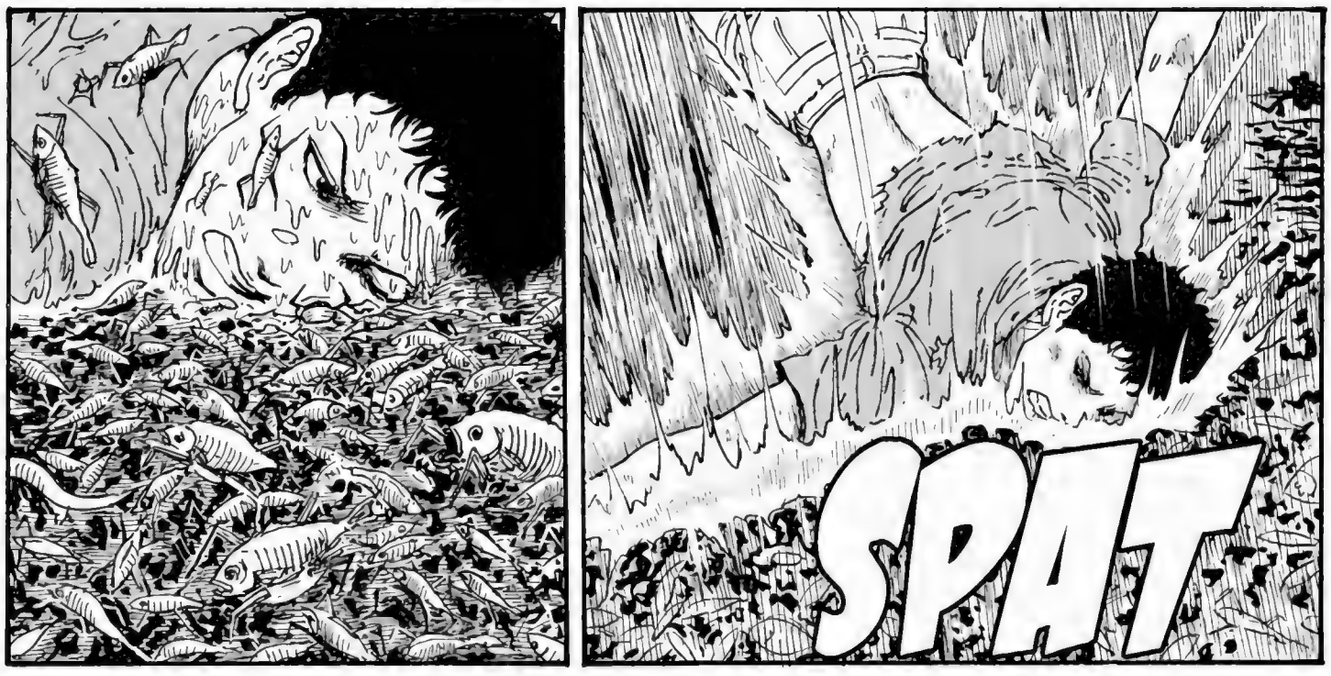
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET TO THEIR HOUSE IN KANAGAWA?
BY THE WAY...I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT YOUR PARENTS.
RRRMMMMMMMMM
OF COURSE. THANKS.
SURE ...
YES... I'M GOING TO GO HOME.
TADASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AIEE!
ARGH!
KRASH
WEOOO WEOOO

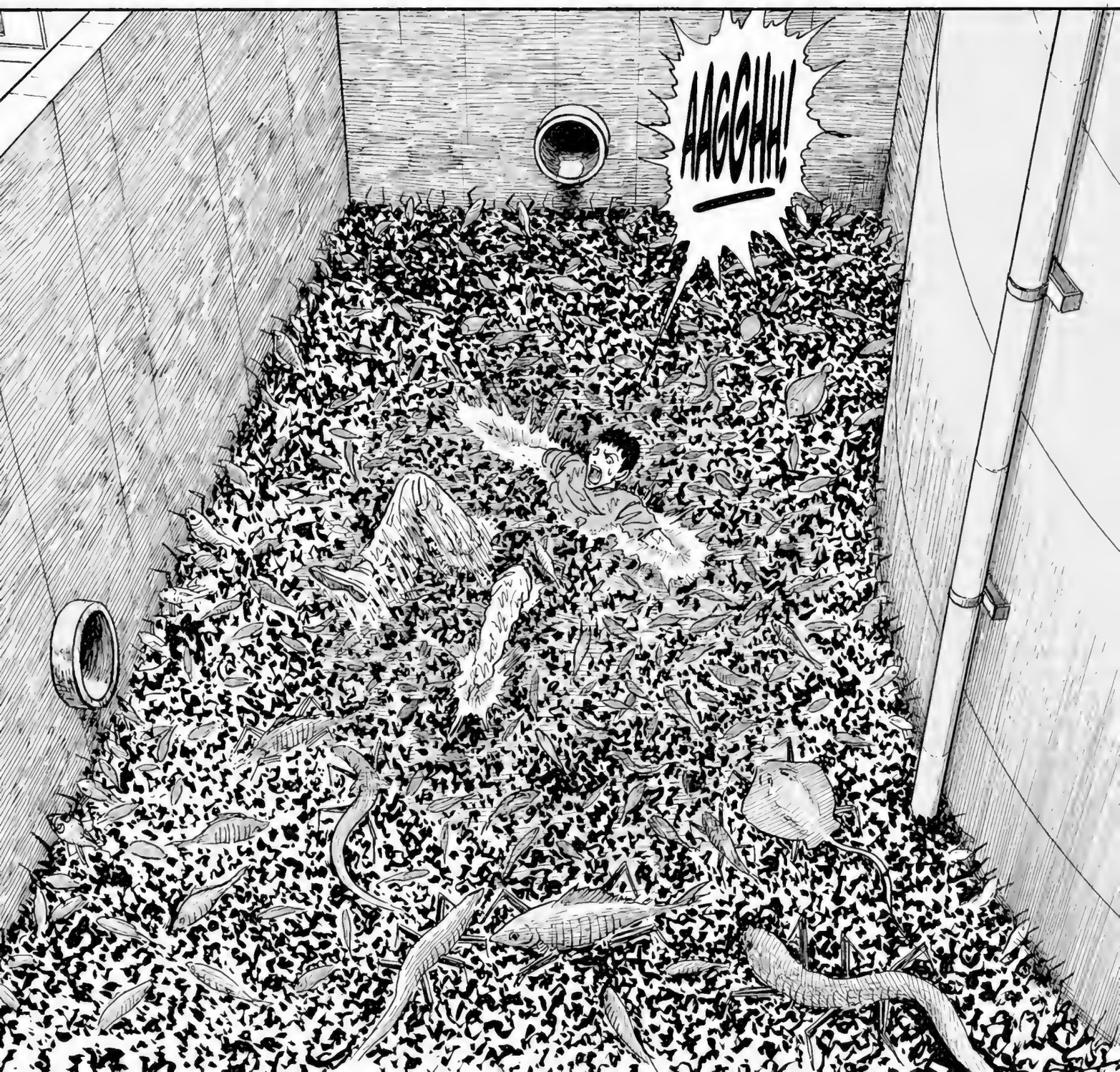
BLAM
BABLAM
THE TRACKS ARE COVERED WITH FISH!
THE TRAIN!? NONE OF THEM ARE RUNNING!
JR
THE SMELL'S EVERY-WHERE.
HUFF... HUFF...



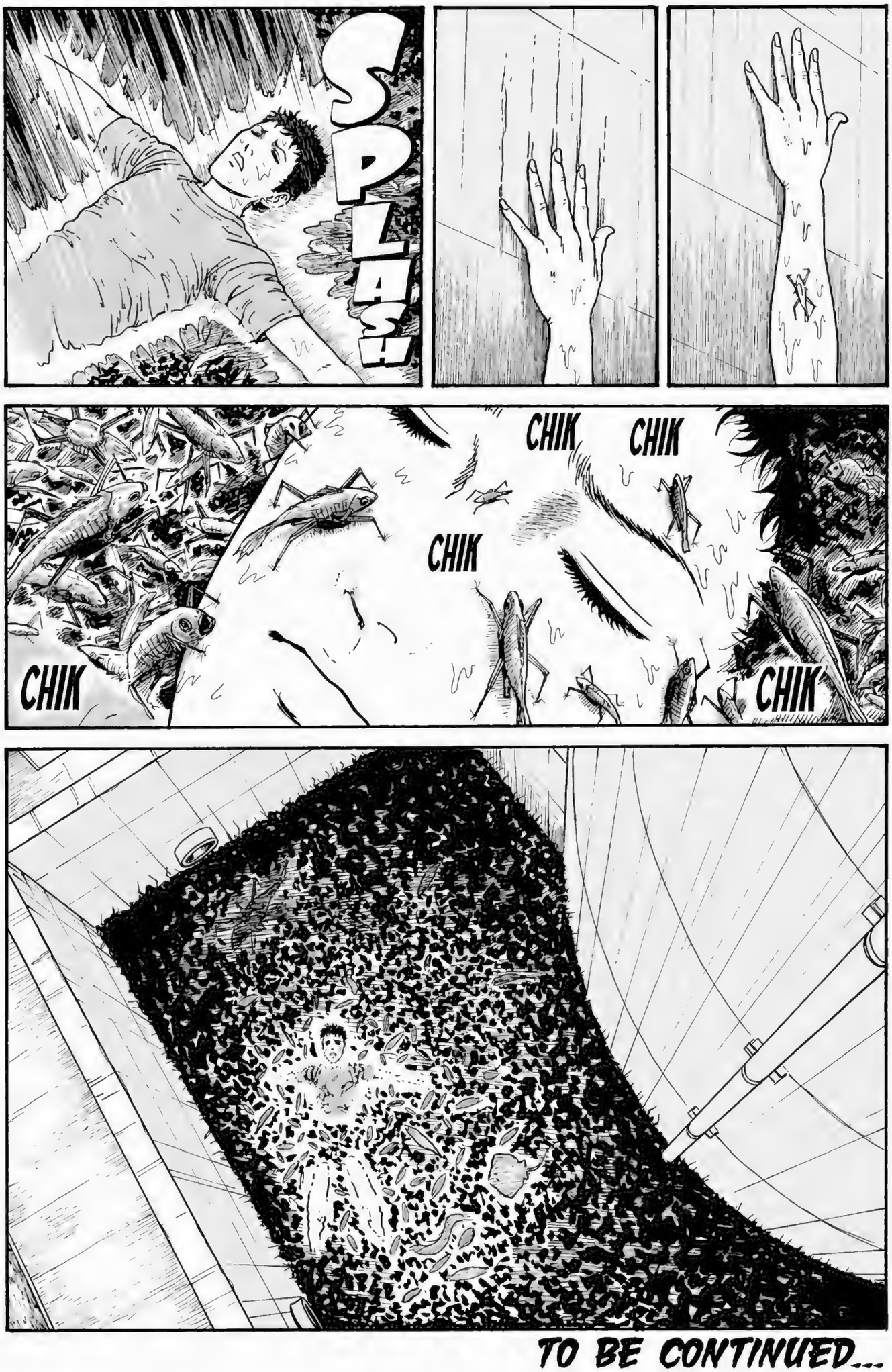
GASHUNK GASHUNK
ARRGH!?
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUN


GASHUNK GASHUNK
BAM
RRRRRR

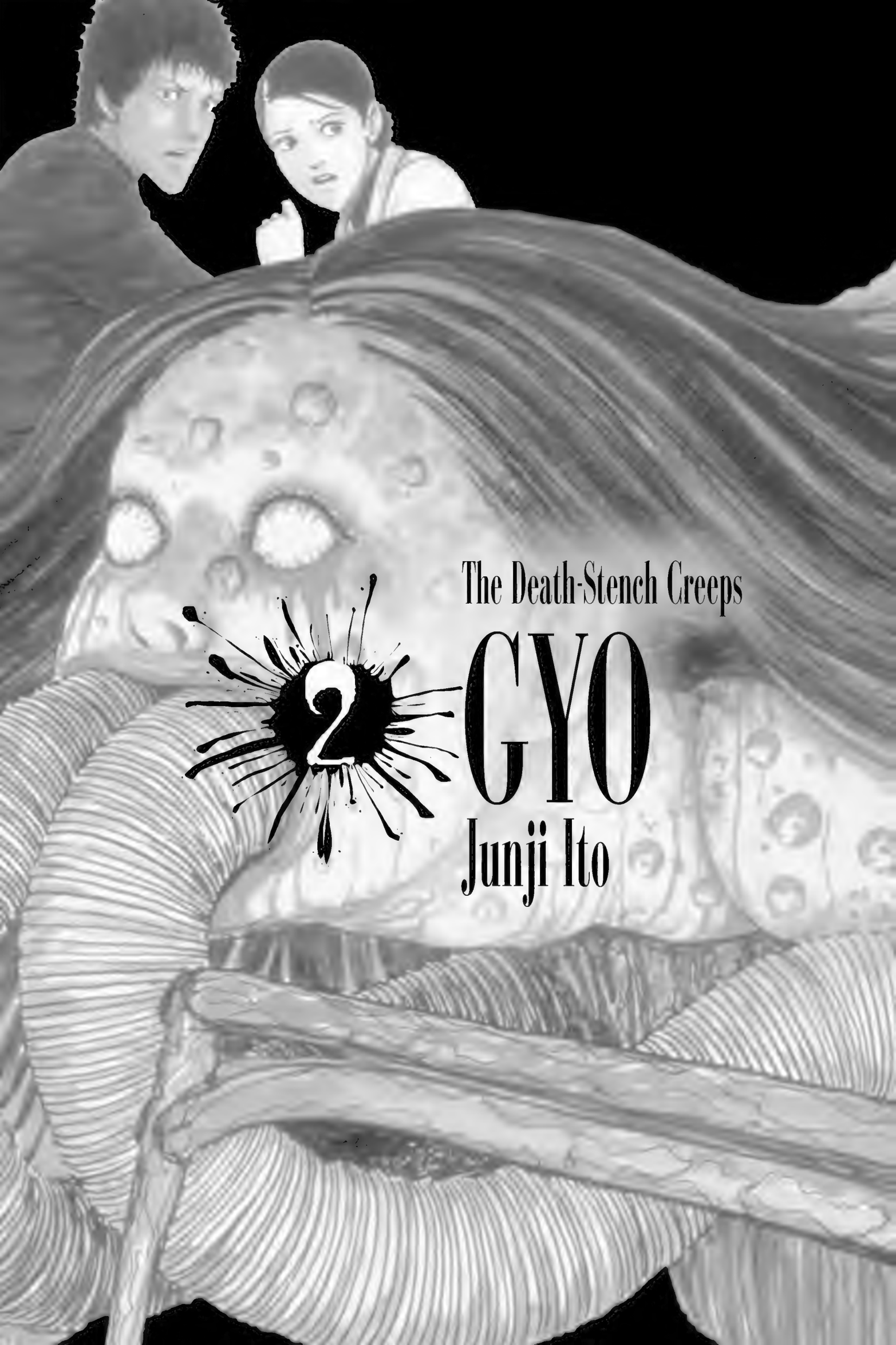

SPAT


AAGGHH!

AAGHH!
AAGH! AGH!
PWICH
OW! THEY'RE ALL OVER ME!
PWICH
AAGHH!
PWICH
PWICH
HELP ME!!
SOME-BODY HELP ME!
SOME-BODY ...


SPLASH!
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
TO BE CONTINUED...

The Death Stench Creeps
GYO
Junji Ito
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT


The Death-Stench Creeps
GYO
Junji Ito

About the artist

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his 1987 debut story *Tomie*, Ito has become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Drifting Classroom*, *Orochi*, *Cat Eyed Boy, Scary Book*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*, *Panorama of Hell*, *The Bug Boy*, *Living Corpse*, *The Red Snake*), as well as the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published in English in the United States to critical acclaim, including *Uzumaki, Tomie* and *The Museum of Terror*. *Uzumaki* was nominated for an Eisner Award and was made into a live-action film.

CONTENTS

11/Pale Kaori...5
12/The Death-Stench Device...23
13/The Inheritors...41
14/The Pull of the Death-Stench...59
15/The Death-Stench Circus, Part 1...77
16/The Death-Stench Circus, Part 2...95
17/The Death-Stench of Lab #2...113
18/The Death-Stench Air Raid...131
19/The Death-Stench World...149

The Sad Tale of the Principal Post...169
The Enigma of Amigara Fault...173

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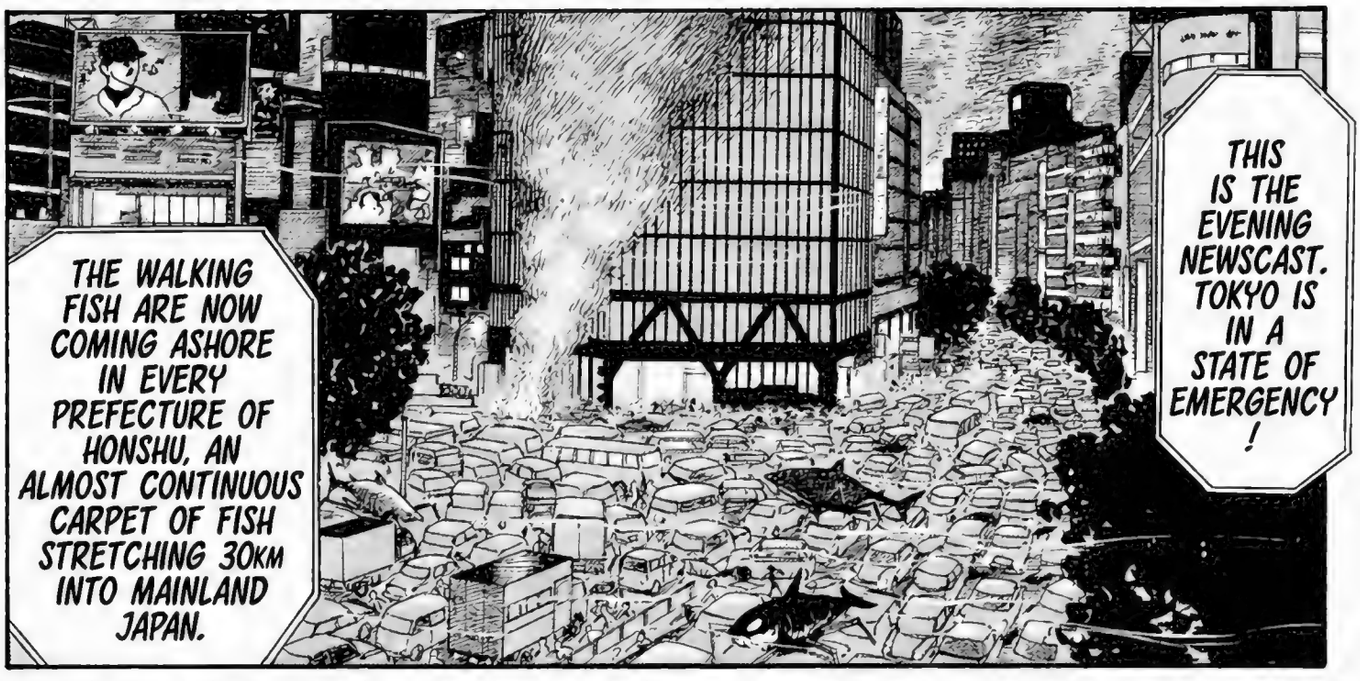
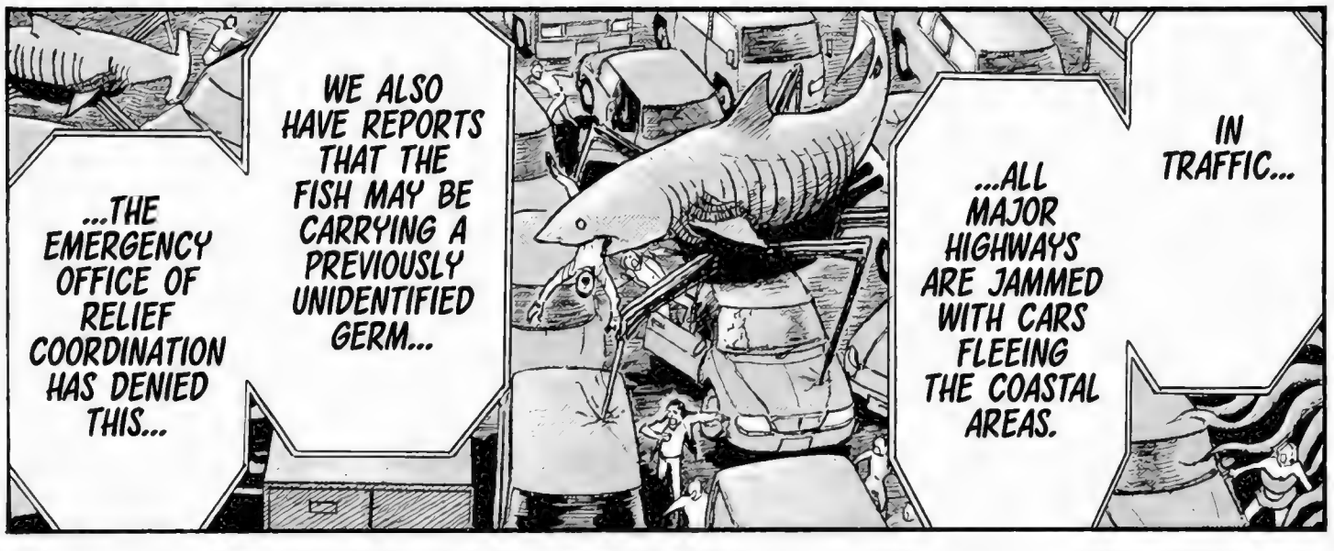
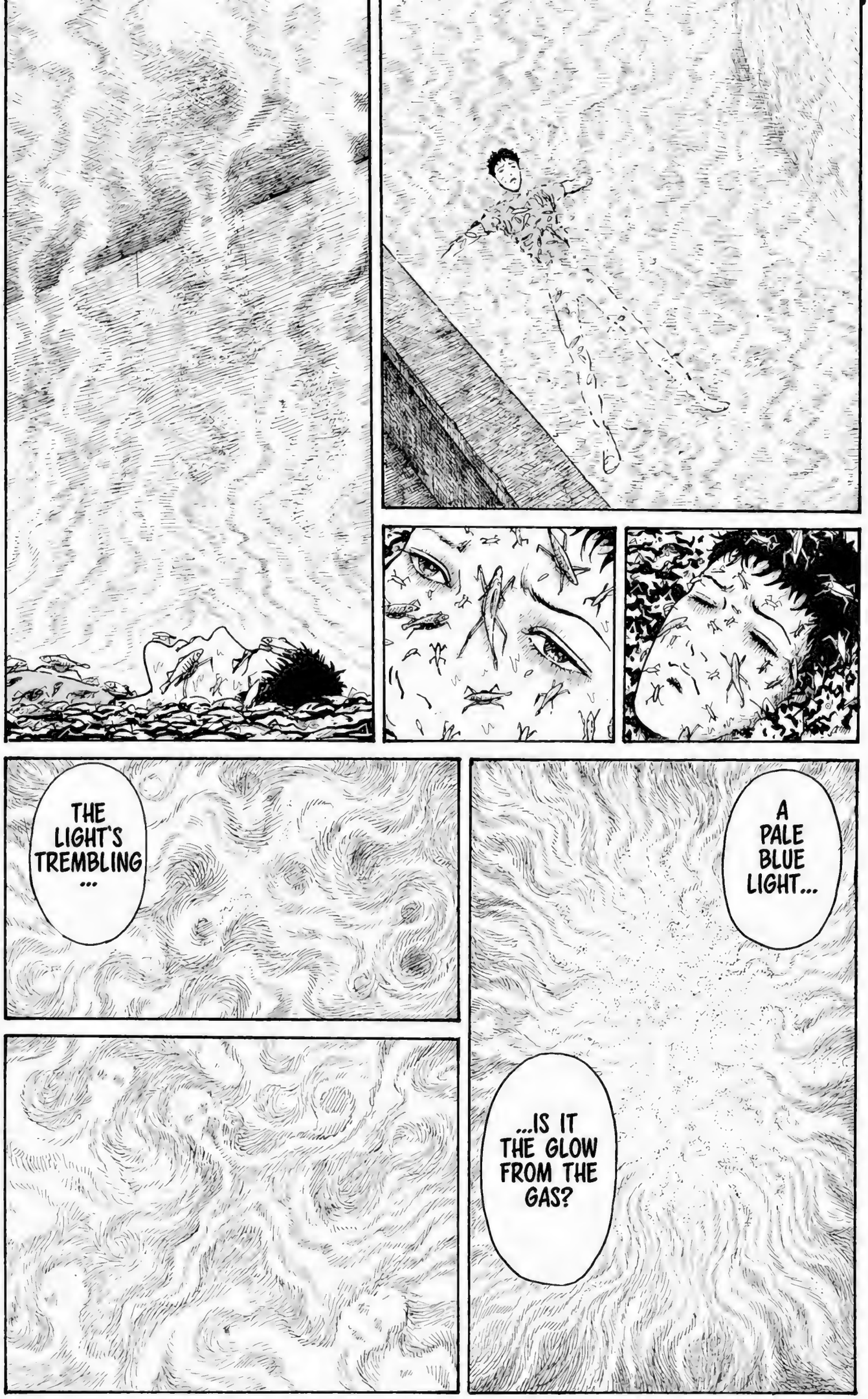
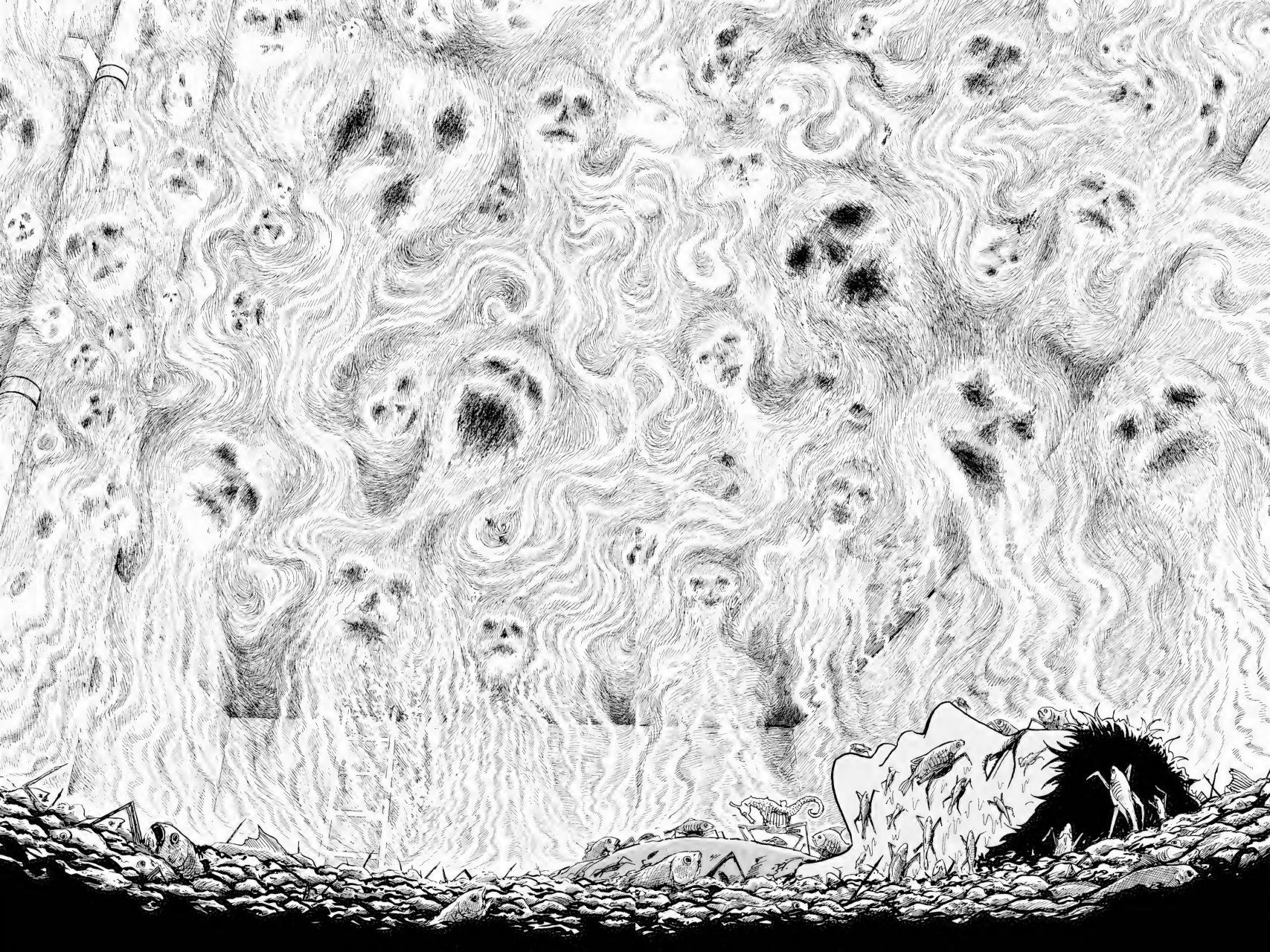
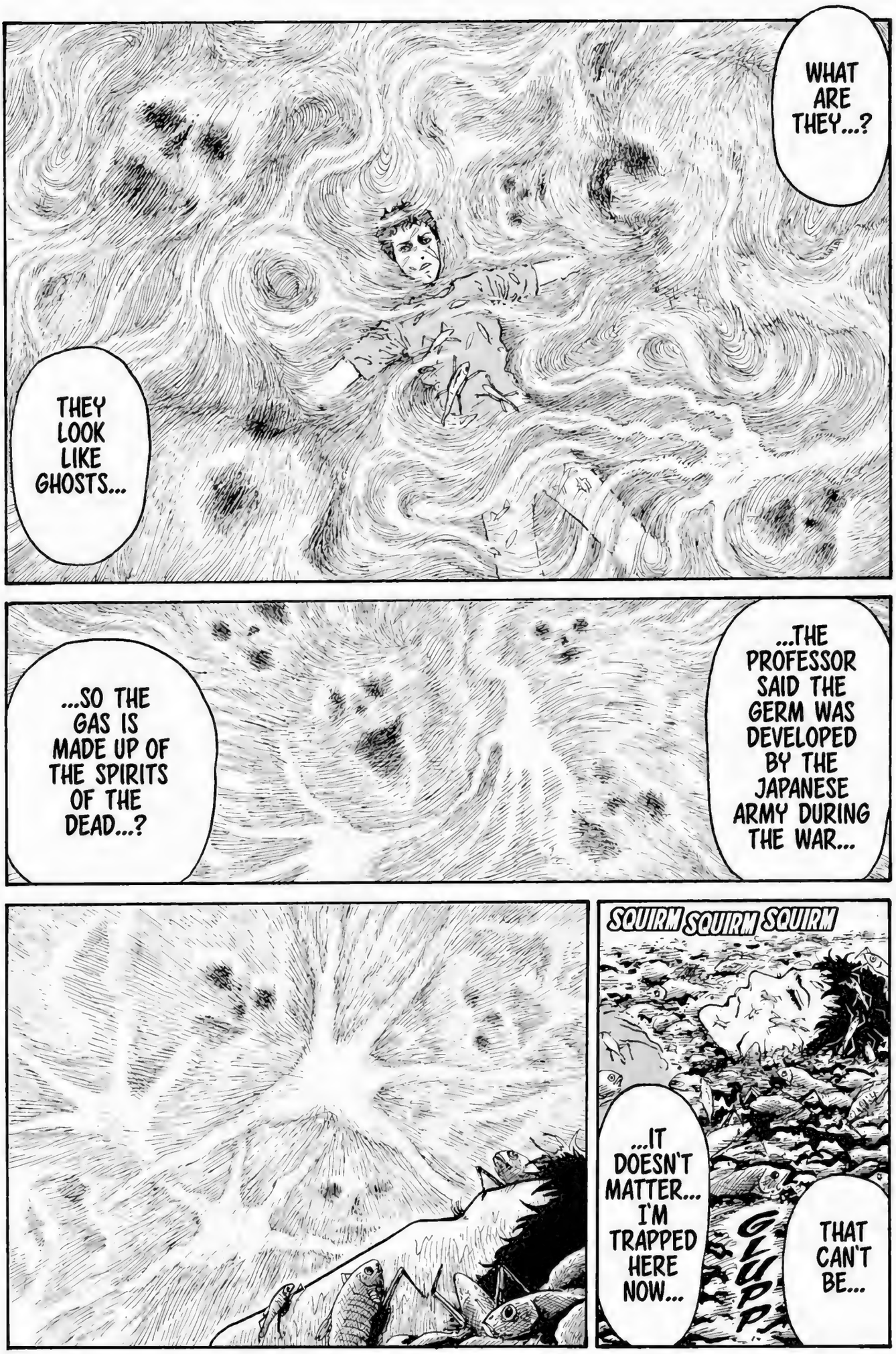
11/Pale Kaori


THIS IS THE EVENING NEWSCAST. TOKYO IS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY!
THE WALKING FISH ARE NOW COMING ASHORE IN EVERY PREFECTURE OF HONSHU, AN ALMOST CONTINUOUS CARPET OF FISH STRETCHING 30KM INTO MAINLAND JAPAN.


...THE EMERGENCY OFFICE OF RELIEF COORDINATION HAS DENIED THIS...
WE ALSO HAVE REPORTS THAT THE FISH MAY BE CARRYING A PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED GERM...
...ALL MAJOR HIGHWAYS ARE JAMMED WITH CARS FLEEING THE COASTAL AREAS.
IN TRAFFIC...


A PALE BLUE LIGHT...
...IS IT THE GLOW FROM THE GAS?
THE LIGHT'S TREMBLING ...




WHAT ARE THEY...?
THEY LOOK LIKE GHOSTS...
...THE PROFESSOR SAID THE GERM WAS DEVELOPED BY THE JAPANESE ARMY DURING THE WAR...
...SO THE GAS IS MADE UP OF THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD...?
SQUIRM SQUIRM SQUIRM
GLUP
THAT CAN'T BE...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER... I'M TRAPPED HERE NOW...

!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING...?
TAKING ME TO THEIR WORLD?

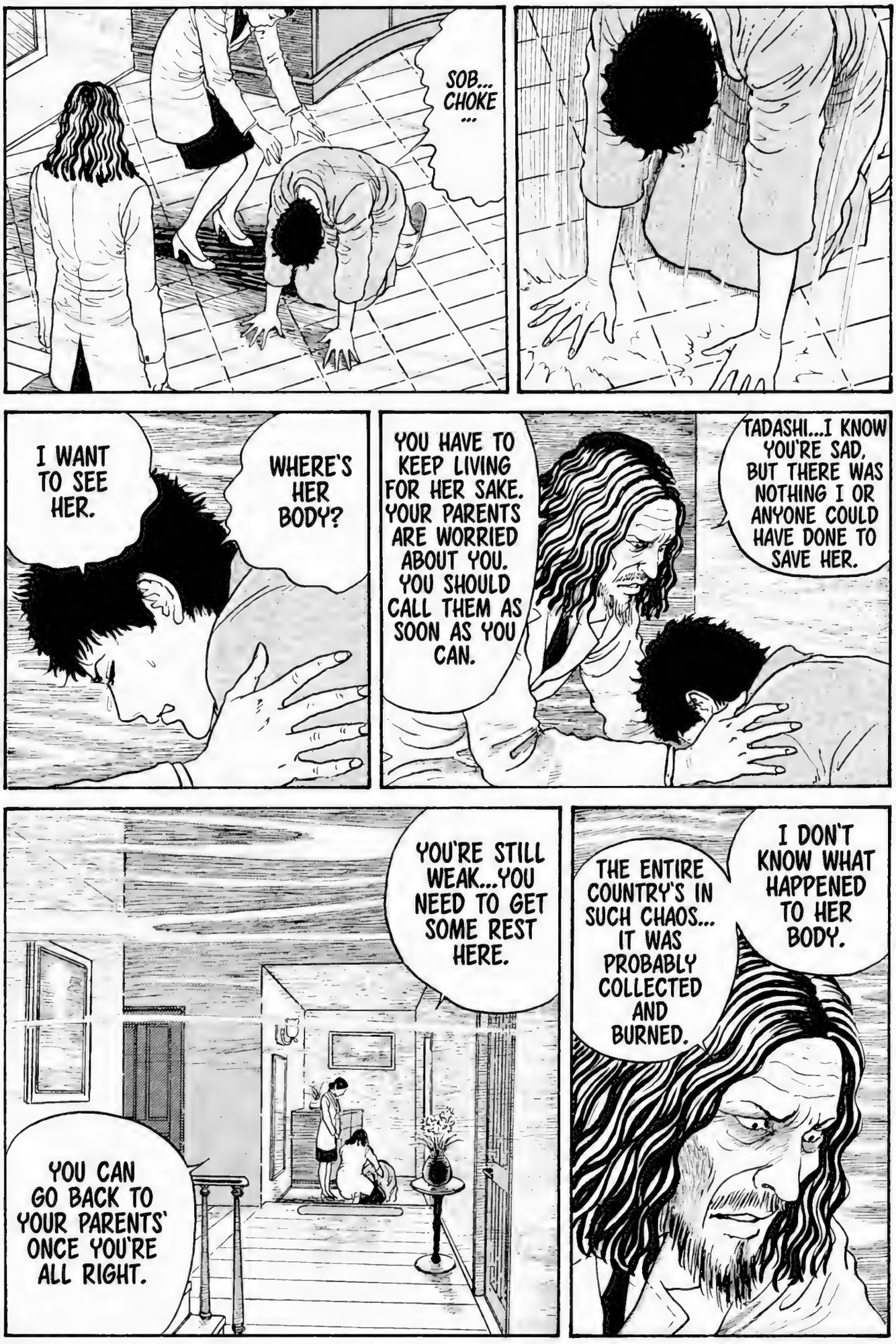
KAORI ...
...IS THAT YOU?
YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL AGAIN...
KAORI...
KAORI...
KAORI...
AH...

HUH...
...WHERE AM I...?
RATTLE RATTLE
OH! YOU'RE UP! GOOD!
I WAS BEGINNING TO GIVE UP HOPE. WE NEED YOUR BED.
YOU WERE IN THE STORM DRAIN IN THE FACTORY. YOU'D HAVE DIED IF YOU HADN'T BEEN FOUND.
HOW LONG... HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
ABOUT A MONTH.
WHAT!? REALLY!?
WHAT ABOUT THE FISH? ARE THEY GONE?
NO, THEY'RE ALL ON LAND NOW. THERE'S ALMOST NONE COMING OUT OF THE SEA.
EVERYONE'S GOTTEN USED TO THE SMELL. NOT JUST HERE-- THEY'RE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

...YOU HAD FISH STINGS ALL OVER YOUR BODY, BUT YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM MUST BE STRONG.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINE, THOUGH...
LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE GETTING INFECTED BY THE GERM THAT MADE THE FISH HOW THEY ARE.
THE FISH AREN'T AN ISSUE NOW AS MUCH AS THE DISEASE THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM.
TO THE QUARANTINE FLOOR! HURRY!
RATTLE RATTLE
I DON'T KNOW... I'D HAVE TO LOOK HER UP.
...DO YOU KNOW IF A WOMAN NAMED KAORI SAWAHARA IS STAYING HERE?
UMM...
WEEEOOO WEEEOOO
City General Hospital
I SEE... THANK YOU...
KAORI SAWAHARA? NO, SHE'S NOT EVEN ON THE QUARANTINE LIST.

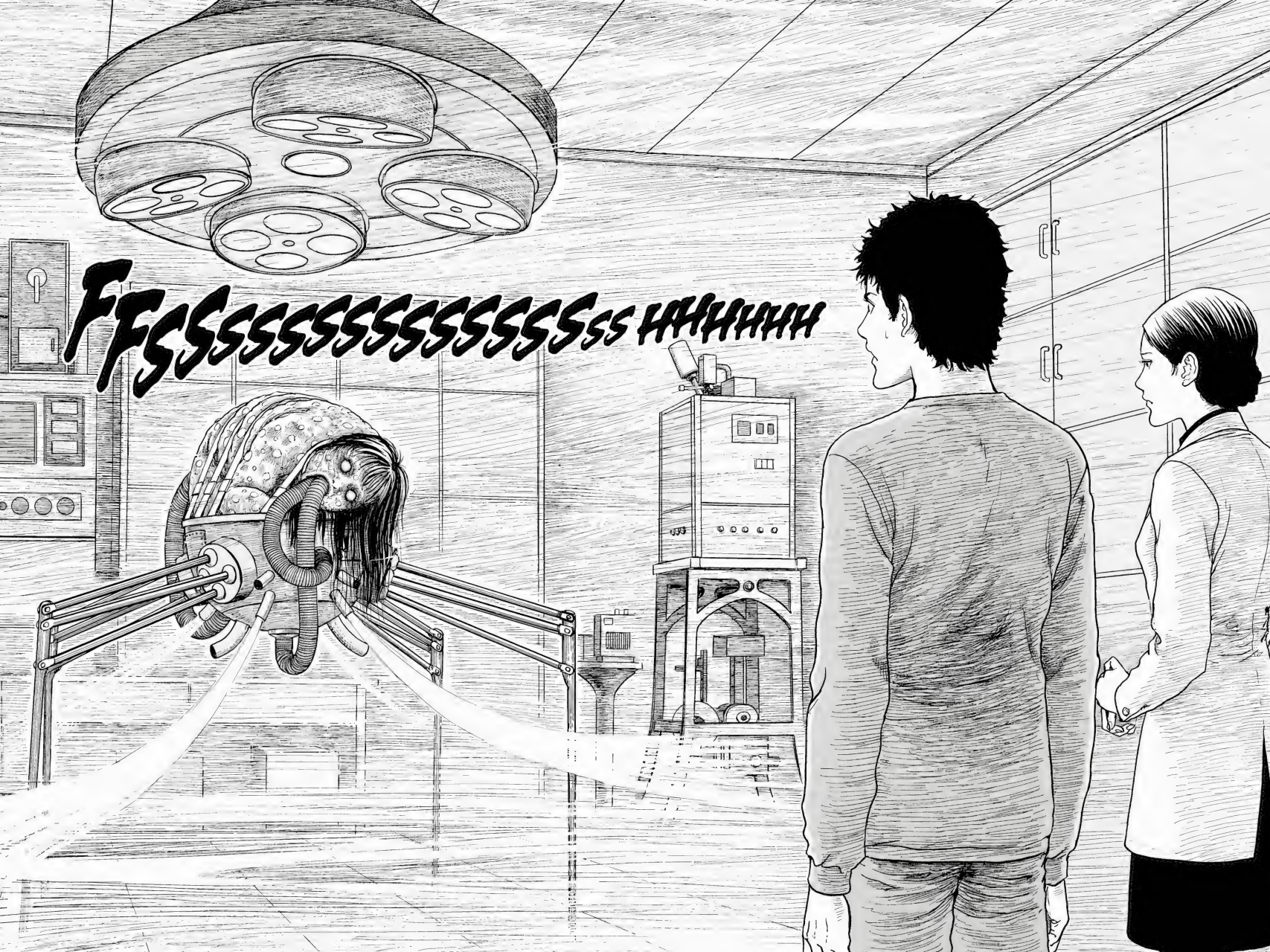
RRRRMMMMM
GASHUNK GASHUNK GASHUNK RRRRMMMMM
THERE SHOULD BE MORE OF THEM. WHERE ARE THEY HIDING?
THESE FISH ARE SO FAST!
MARTIAL LAW'S BEEN DECLARED HERE. GO HOME!
HEY, YOU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE?!

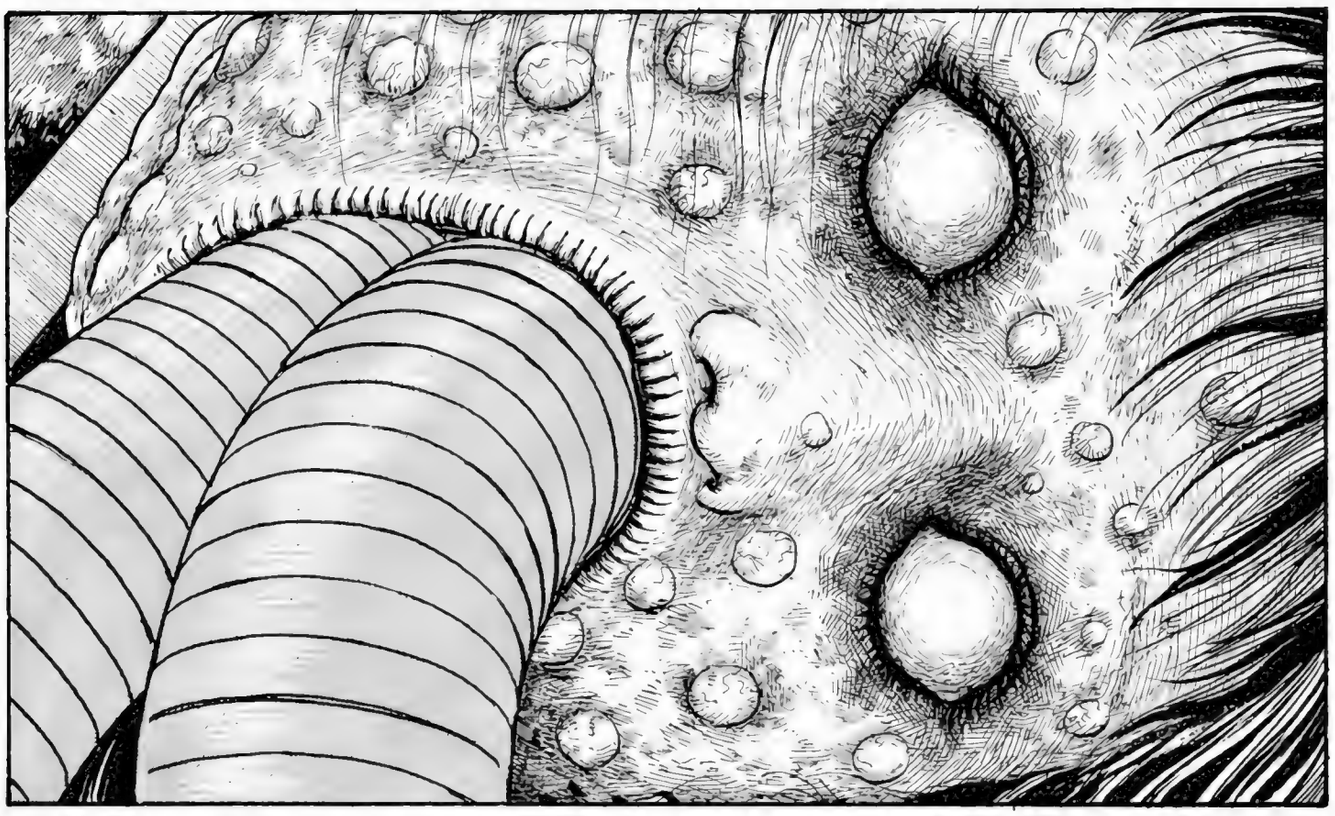
YES...?
IT'S ME... TADASHI.
小柳研究所
KOYANAGI LABORATORY
IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
UNCLE KOYANAGI, WHERE'S KAORI?
TADASHI... WE WERE WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE WELL. PLEASE COME IN.
THE INFECTION HAD GONE TOO FAR.
TADASHI, I'M SORRY... KAORI'S DEAD.

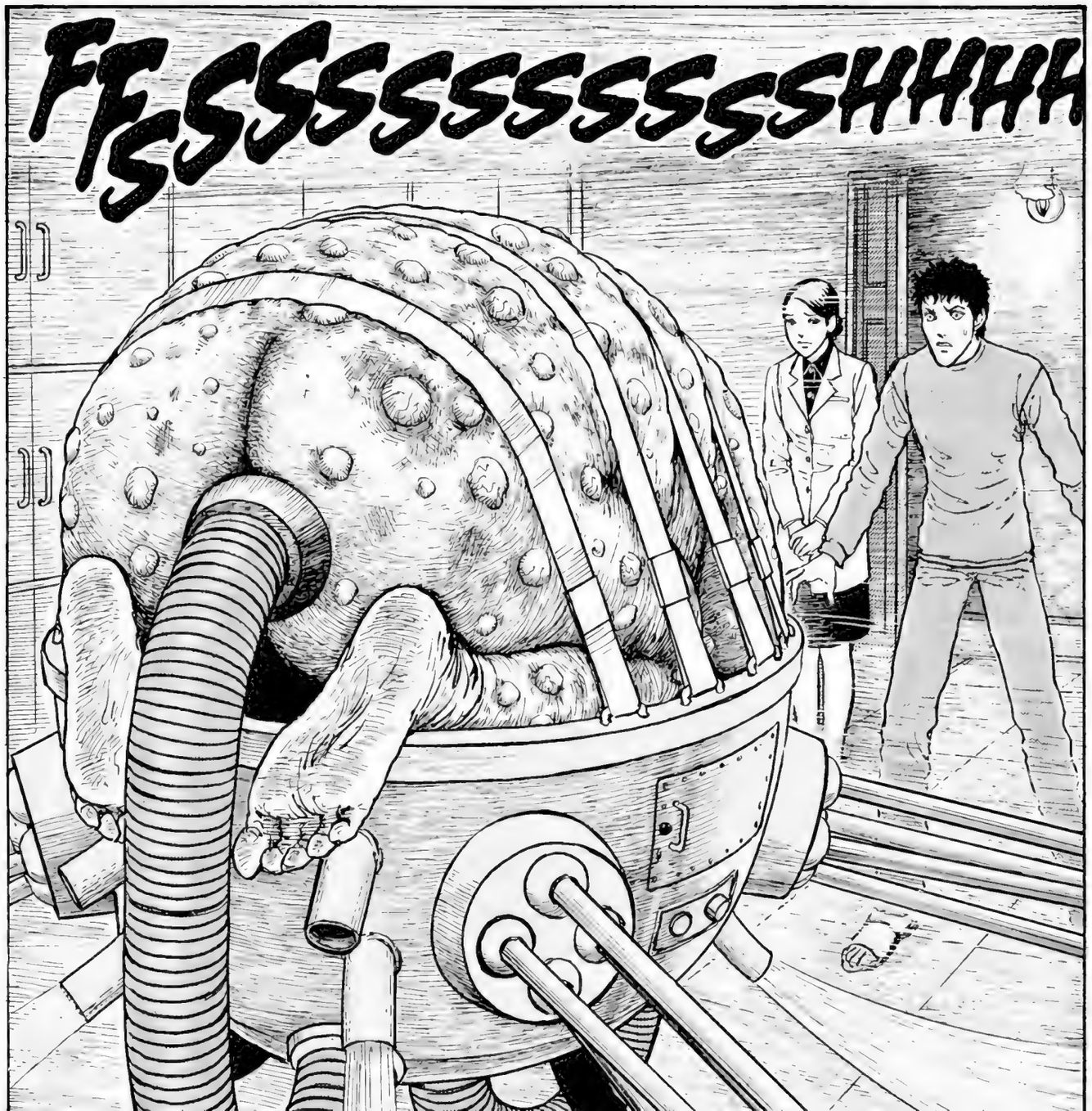

SOB... CHOKE ...
I WANT TO SEE HER.
WHERE'S HER BODY?
YOU HAVE TO KEEP LIVING FOR HER SAKE. YOUR PARENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU SHOULD CALL THEM AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
TADASHI...I KNOW YOU'RE SAD, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I OR ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE TO SAVE HER.
YOU'RE STILL WEAK...YOU NEED TO GET SOME REST HERE.
YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR PARENTS' ONCE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY'S IN SUCH CHAOS... IT WAS PROBABLY COLLECTED AND BURNED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER BODY.

TADASHI...
TADASHI...
...I CAN'T LIE TO YOU LIKE THIS.
I...I JUST CAN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE...
PLEASE COME WITH ME.
...WHAT IS IT?
MS. YOSHIYAMA...

THIS IS THE LAB...
...WHAT'S THERE?
WH-WHAT ...!?
SO... SHE'S STILL ALIVE !?
KAORI... IS HERE...


FFSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS HHHHHHH




FFSSSSSSSSSSSSHHHH

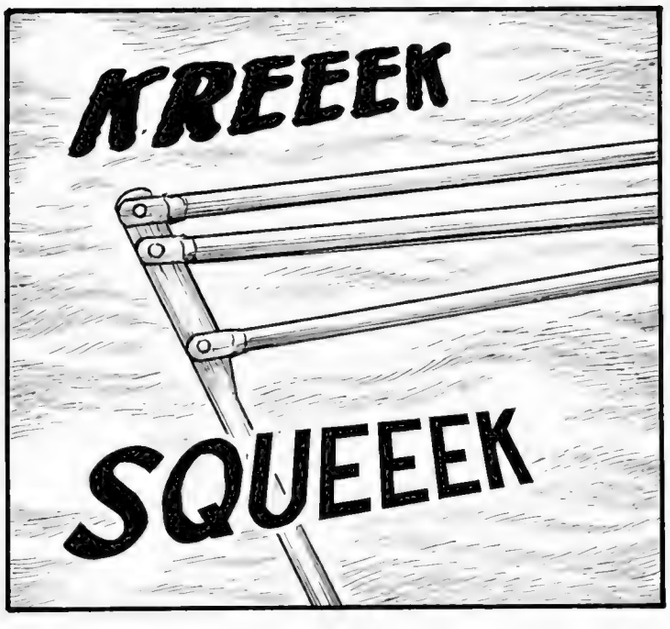
FFSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHH
12/The Death-Stench Device

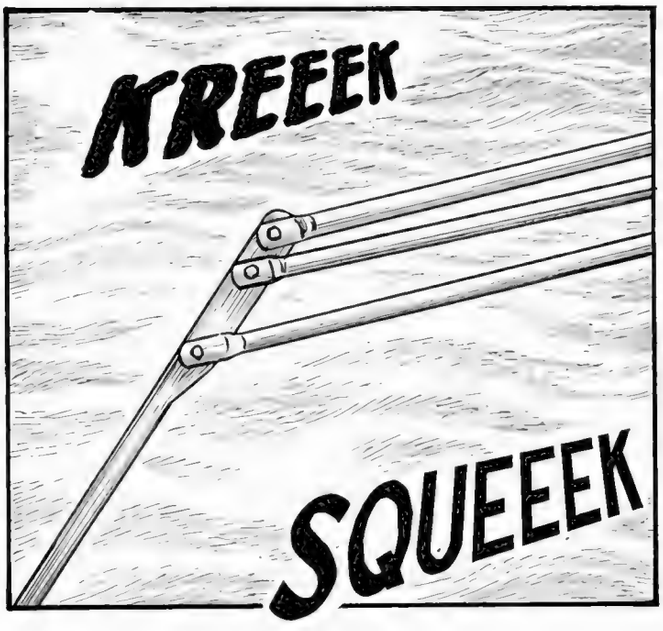
KA...
KAORI...
KAORI... KAORI!
WHAT IN...?
MS. YOSHIYAMA, WHAT IS THIS?!
WHAT'S SHE DOING ON THAT THING?!
IS SHE STILL ALIVE?!
I'M SO SORRY, TADASHI...
...KAORI IS IN A COMA... SHE'S BEEN IN A COMA SINCE YOU BROUGHT HER HERE A MONTH AGO.
THEN WHY?!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE!?

IT'S MY FAULT...
FORGIVE ME, SIR.
AH!
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO BE HERE!?
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE... SIR!!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO TELL TADASHI!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOW...I ASSURE YOU I NEVER WANTED YOU TO SEE THIS, BUT...
WHAT IS THIS METAL THING?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

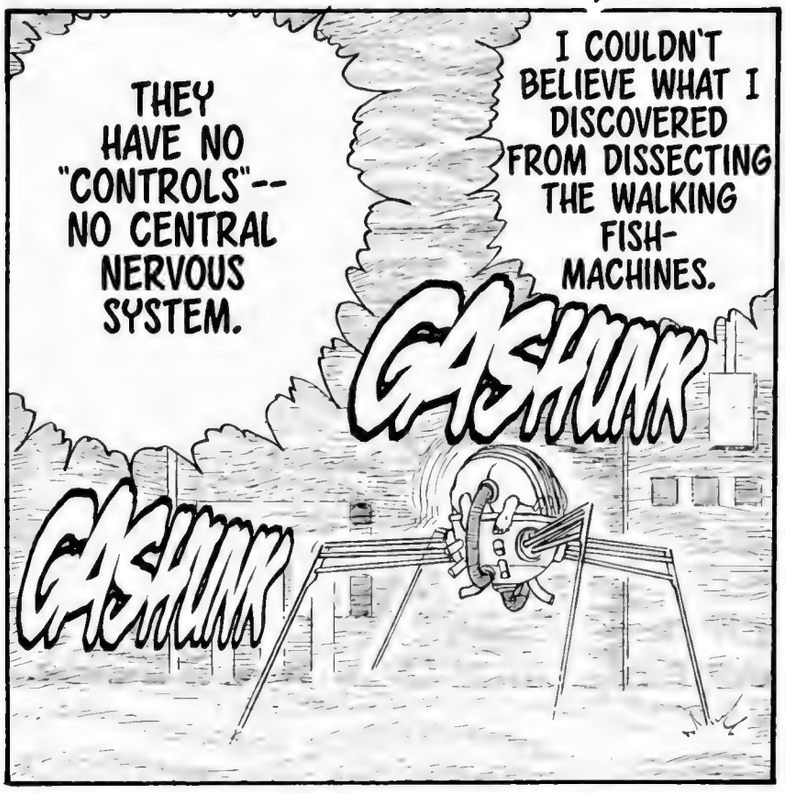
WHAT...!?
...THIS IS MY WALKING MACHINE.
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
WHAT IS IT FOR?!
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE KAORI WAS! AND ALL THIS TIME SHE WAS HOOKED UP TO THIS THING!
YOUR "WALKING MACHINE" !?
KLIK!
WHEN I PRESS THIS SWITCH, THE ENGINE WILL INFLATE WITH GAS.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST WATCH IT WORK.
TADASHI, CALM DOWN... I'LL EXPLAIN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS LATER.

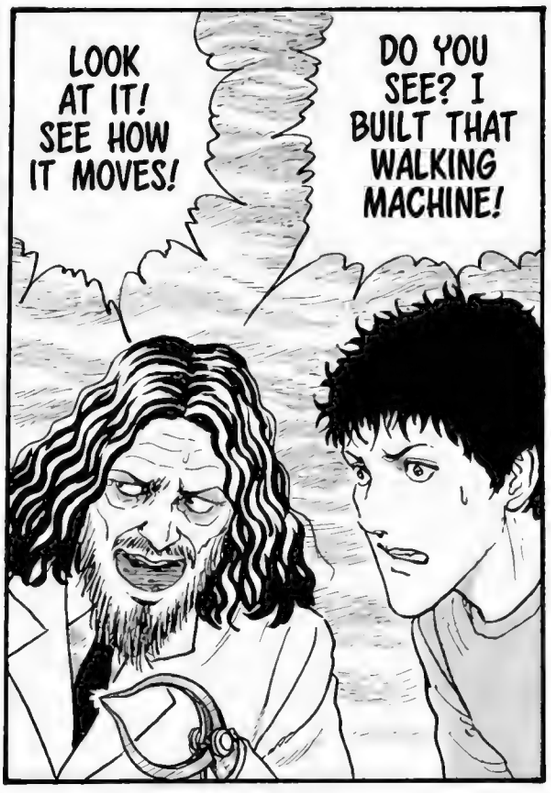
FSSSHHHOOOOO
FSSHHH
FSHHHHH


KREEEK
SQUEEEK


KREEEK
SQUEEEK

GASHUNK!
GASHUNK!!
GASHUNK!


THEY HAVE NO "CONTROLS"-- NO CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I DISCOVERED FROM DISSECTING THE WALKING FISH-MACHINES.
GASHUNK
GASHUNK


LOOK AT IT! SEE HOW IT MOVES!
DO YOU SEE? I BUILT THAT WALKING MACHINE!

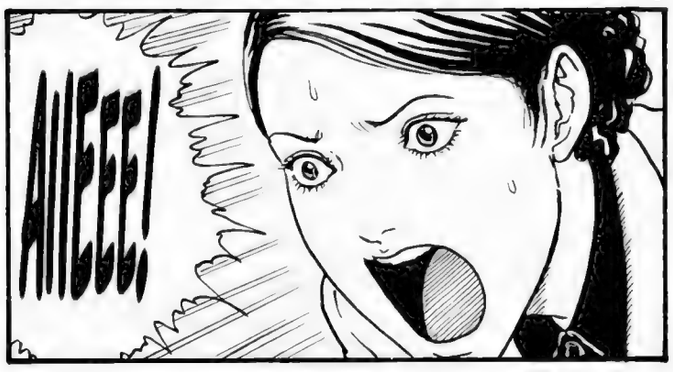
HOW COULD A MACHINE AS SIMPLE AS A STEAM ENGINE PROVIDE THE COORDINATION TO WALK ON FOUR LEGS?
I REALIZED THE SECRET WAS IN THE GAS GERM INFECTING THE FISH...
...THE GERM THAT FEEDS ON TISSUE AND MAKES GASES... LITERALLY BLOWING LIFE INTO THE MACHINE.
I BUILT THIS DEVICE TO PROVE MY THEORY, USING KAORI'S BODY AS THE FUEL SOURCE.
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
AND I WAS RIGHT! WHEN THE GAS FLOWED THROUGH, IT STARTED TO MOVE LIKE A LIVING CREATURE!
I'VE IMPROVED ON THE ORIGINAL DESIGN...AND NOW I CAN REALLY START MY STUDIES.
B-BUT UNCLE...
THERE'S FISH EVERY-WHERE...
WHY'D YOU USE KAORI AS YOUR GUINEA PIG?

YOU'VE GONE CRAZY!
THIS IS SICK!
WHEN YOU TOLD ME TO GO TO MY PARENTS, YOU JUST WANTED ME OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE TAKING HER TO THE HOSPITAL, WHEN ACTUALLY YOU WERE DOING THIS TO HER!
TADASHI... STOP!!
IT'S DANGER-OUS!!
I'M GOING TO PULL OUT THESE TUBES!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
I'M TAKING KAORI BACK!!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
WHA --!!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
AAGHH!
BAM

GASHUNK
FFUDDP

GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

GNHAA!


AIIEEE!

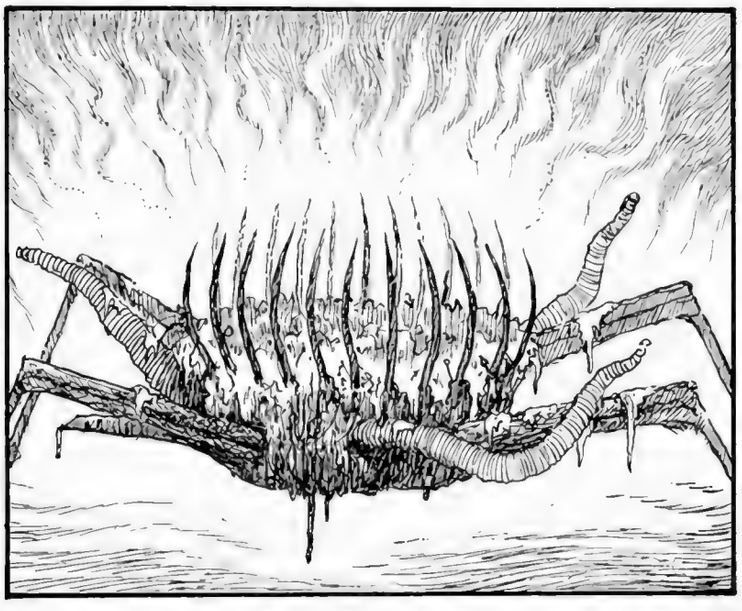
...
DOCTOR!
UNCLE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
SMASH
GAHUNK
GAHUNK
KAORI!!
WHAM
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

GALLOP
GALLOP
KAORIII !!
KAORIII !!
...
I LOST HER...

SHOOOOO
WITHIN A MONTH TOKYO'S TURNED INTO A GHOST TOWN...
...THEY'RE GETTING SLUGGISH... THE GAS IS LEAKING OUT..
GASHUNK
FSSHH
FSSHH
GASHUNK
THE WALKING FISH ARE REALLY ROTTING...

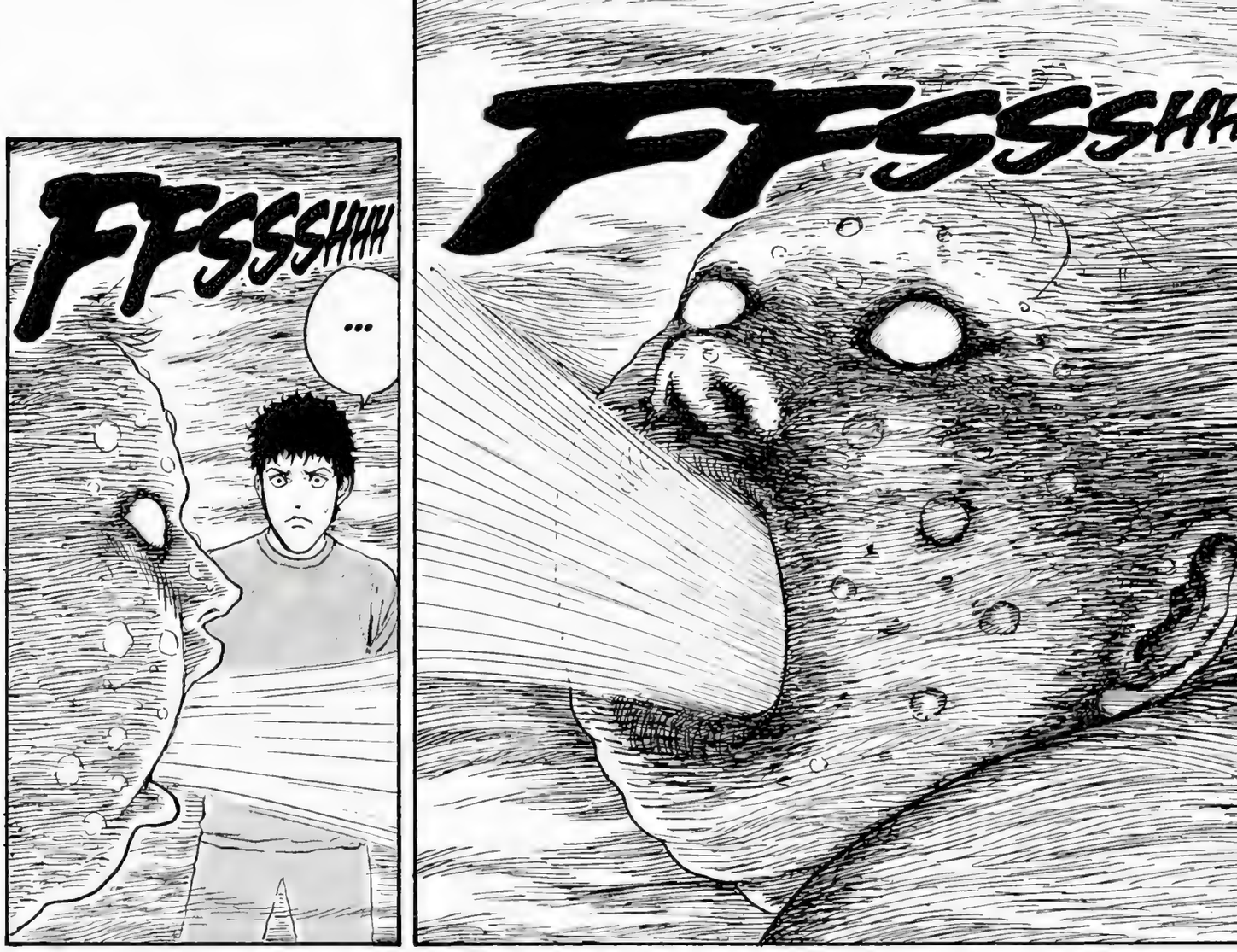
POP
PP

THEY'RE SO FEEBLE THEY CAN'T TAKE THE GAS PRESSURE. THEY'RE DYING..



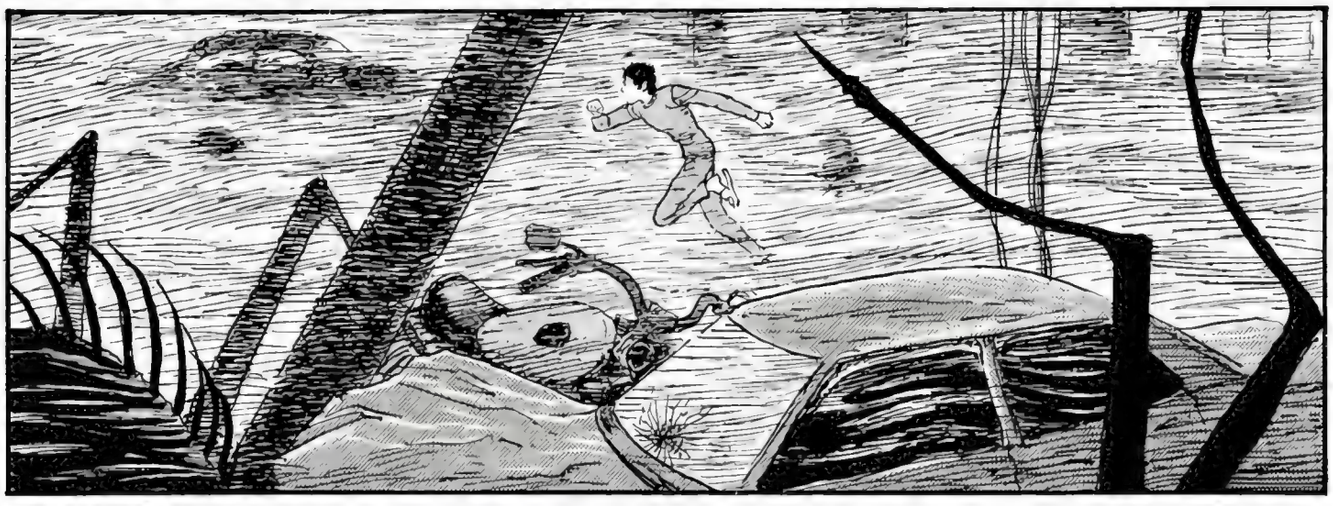
EXCUSE ME...
...DID YOU SEE A WOMAN GO BY ON A MACHINE?

SHF SHF

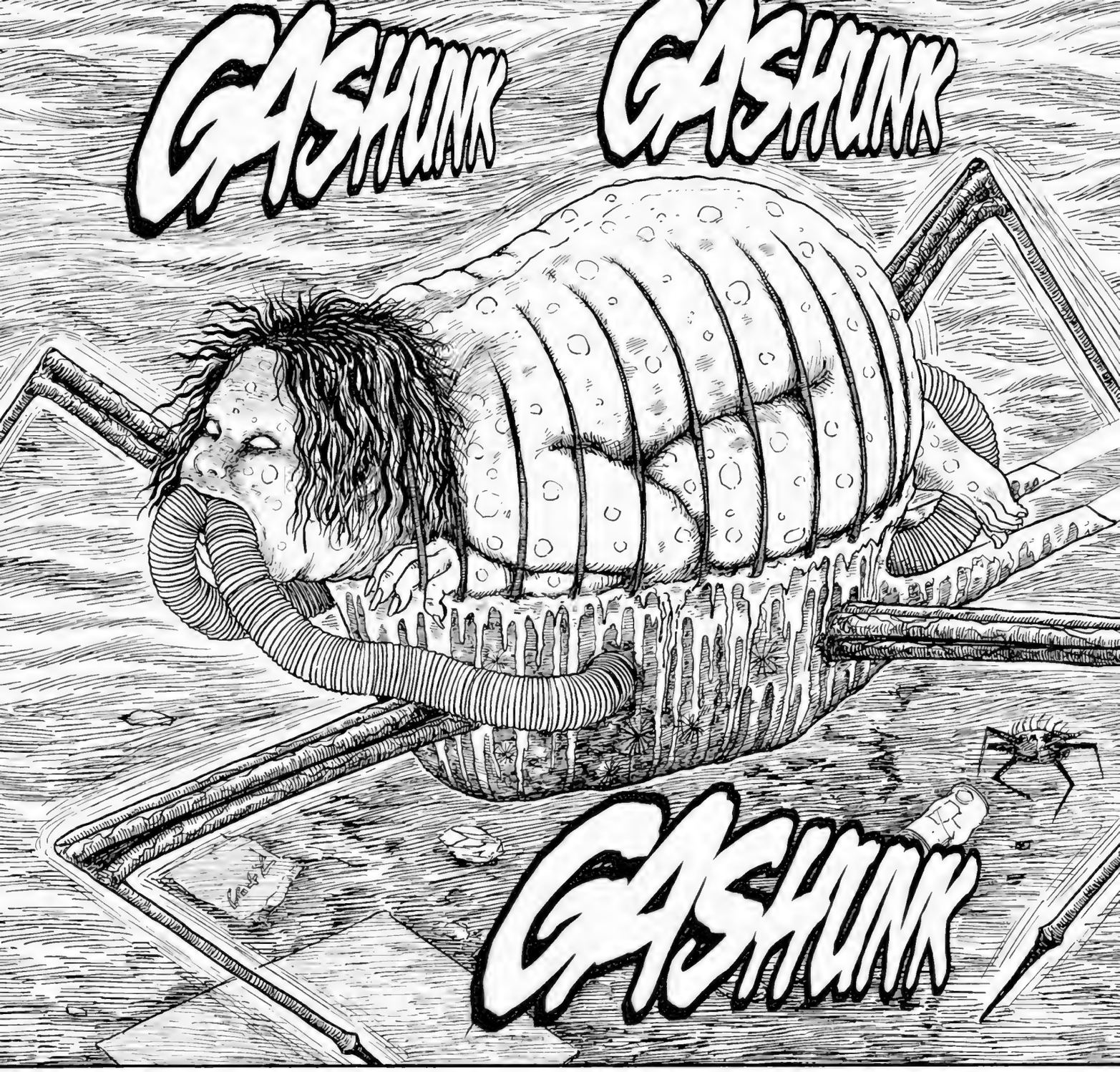

FFSSHHH
...
FFSSHH

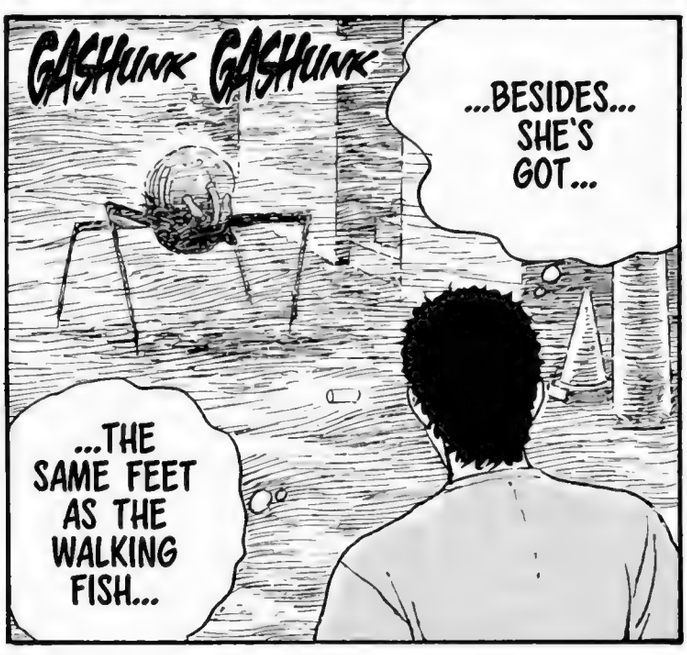
R-REALLY? THANKS... THANK YOU!

SHE WENT THAT WAY.
YES... I SAW HER.



GASHUNK
GASHUNK
AH...!
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
WAIT FOR ME!
GASHUNK
KAORI! IT'S ME!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
KAORI!
HUH!?
GASHUNK
...IT'S OKAY! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
KAORI...
GASHUNK

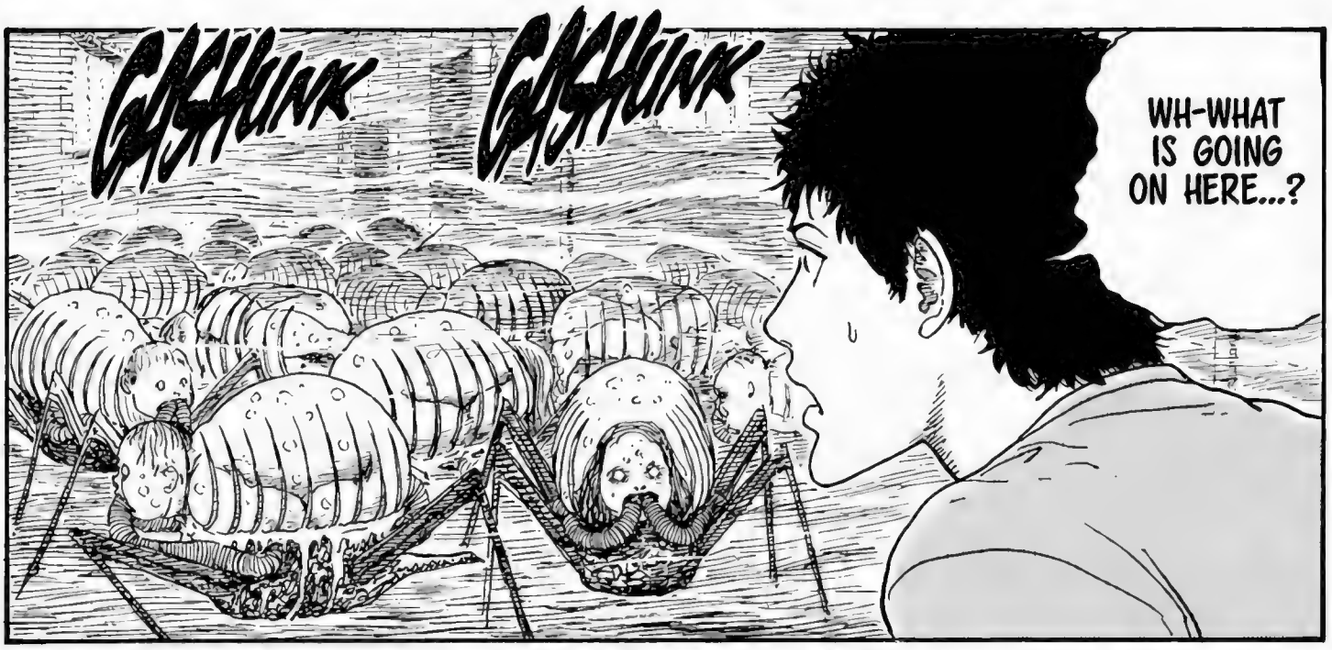

GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK

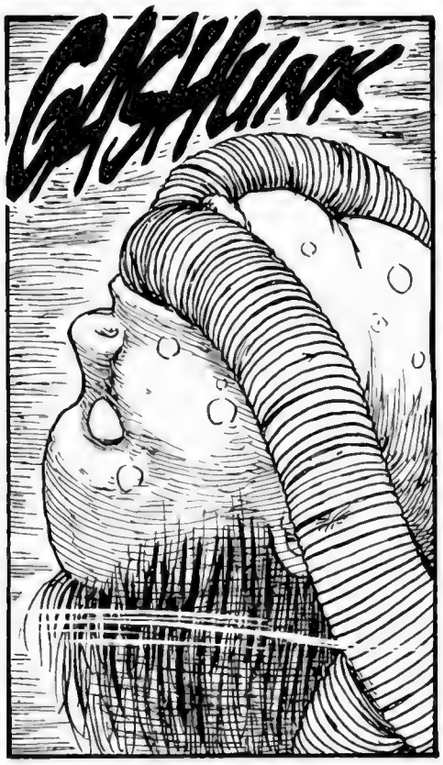

GASHUNK GASHUNK
...BESIDES... SHE'S GOT...
...THE SAME FEET AS THE WALKING FISH...

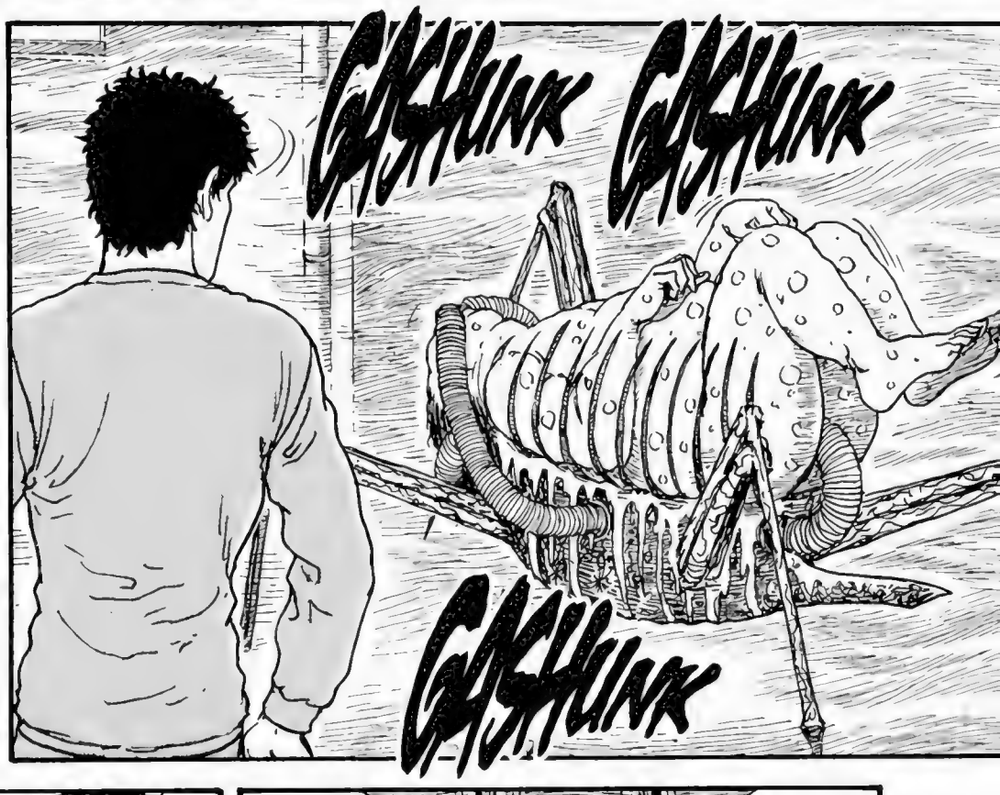
...THIS ISN'T HER...
...NO...

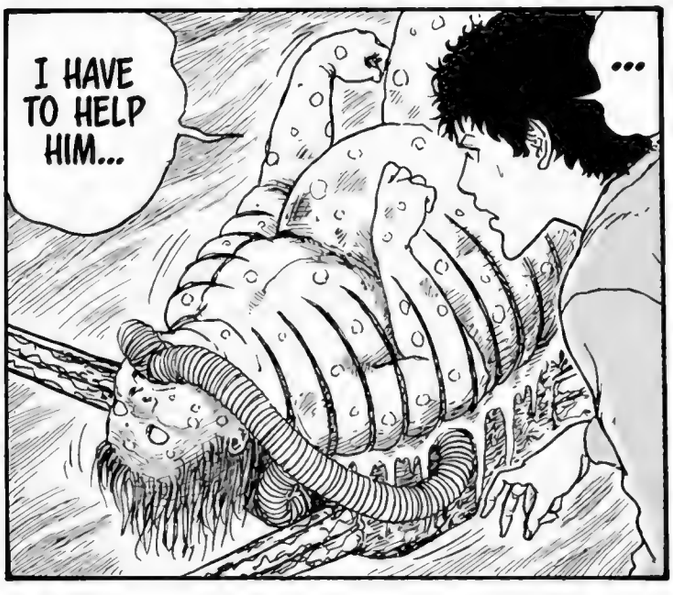
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK
AH...
GASHUNK GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK
...
THIS ONE, TOO...

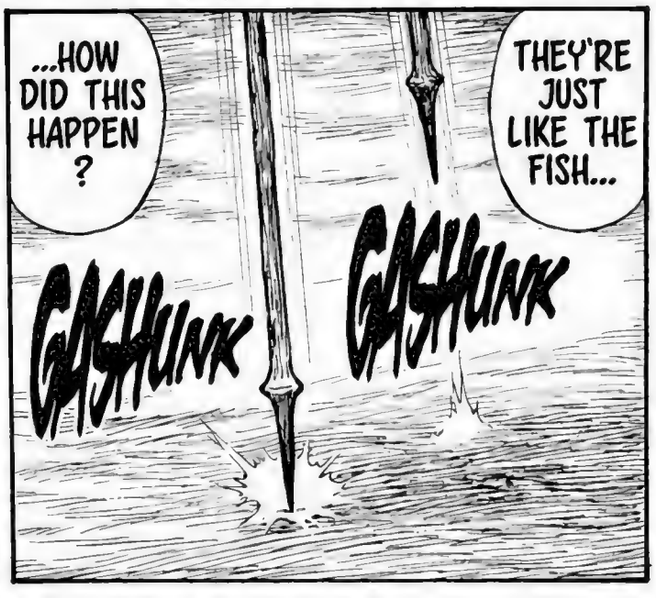
FFSSSSSSSSSHHHH
GASHUNK
FFSSSSSSSSSHHHH
GASHUNK
FFSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
GASHUNK
FFSSSSSSSSSHHHHH
GASHUNK
WH-
WHAT...
13/The Inheritors


GASHUNK
GASHUNK
WH-WHAT IS GOING ON HERE...?

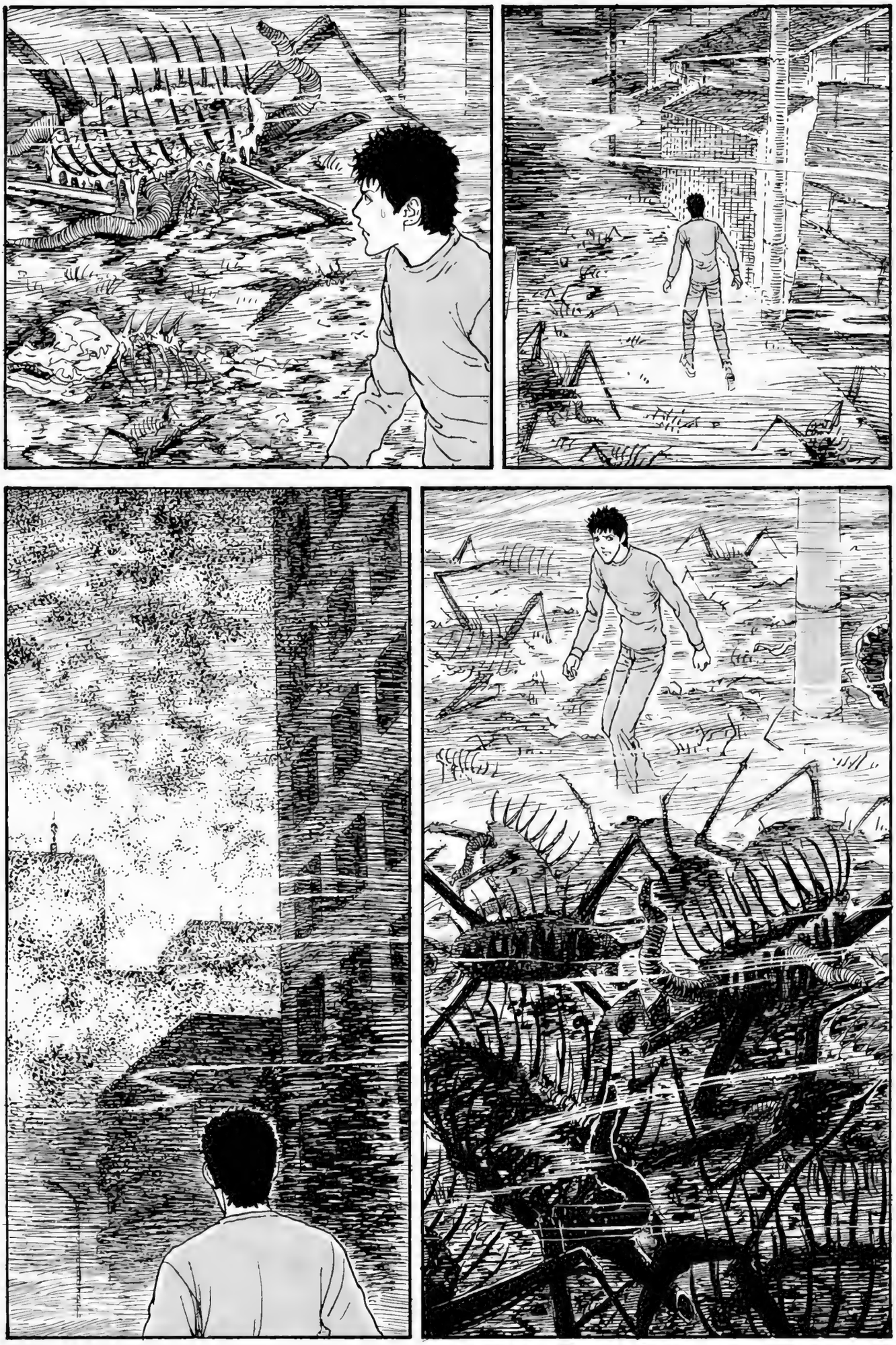

GASHUNK


GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK


I HAVE TO HELP HIM...
...


...HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ?
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE FISH...
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

GASHUNK
HUH ?
GASHUNK
SHOOOO
GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK GASHUNK
GA SHA GA SHA GA SHA
...

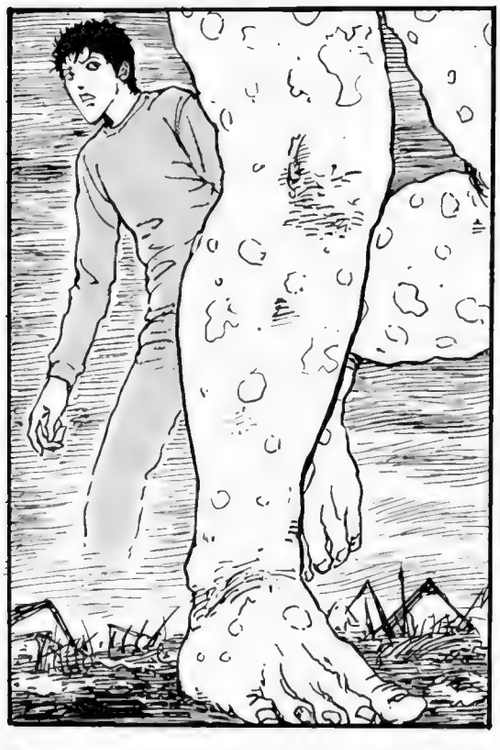


IT LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE SKY IS SQUIRMING ...

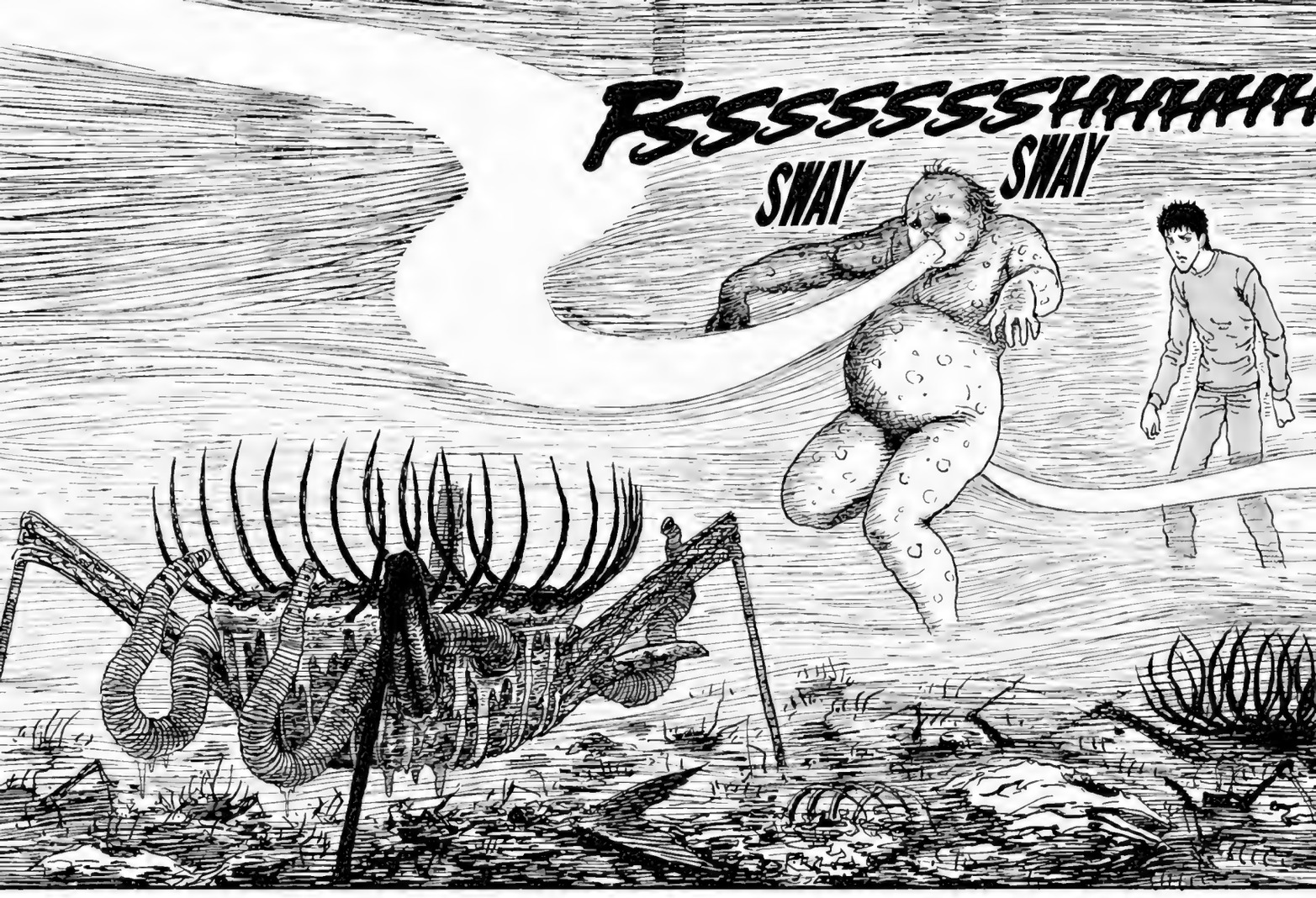
THE NIGHT SKY IS PALE BLUE...
...IT MUST BE THE LIGHT FROM THE GAS...

FSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH
SWAY
SWAY
SWAY

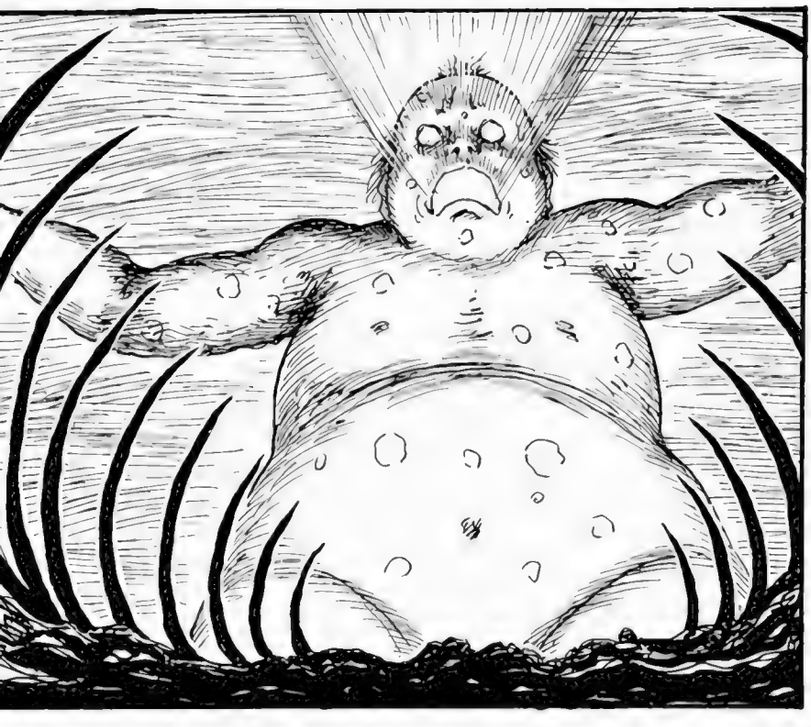
FSSSSSSSHHHHH



FSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH
SWAY

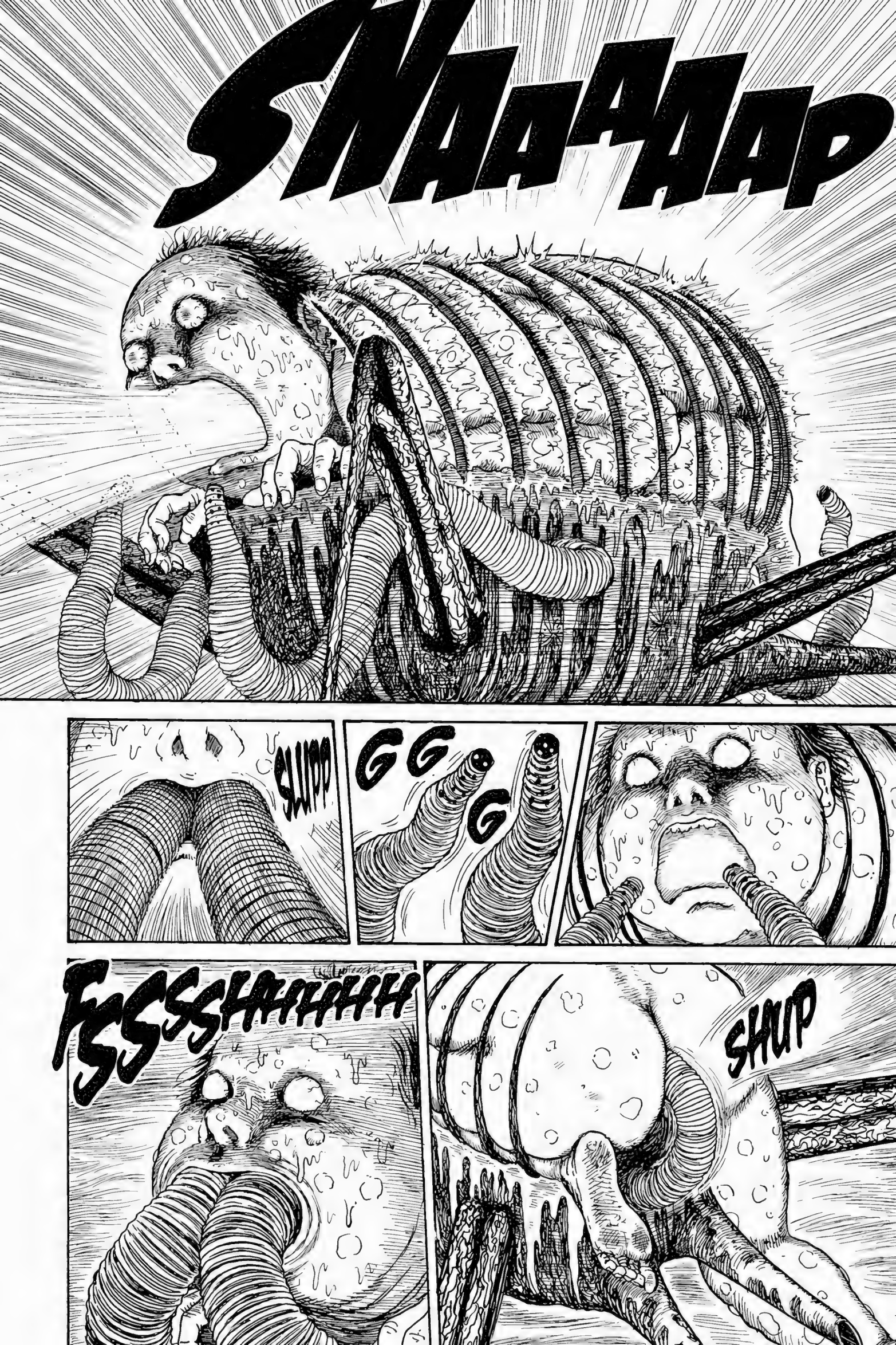

FSSSSSSSSHHHHHH
SWAY
SWAY

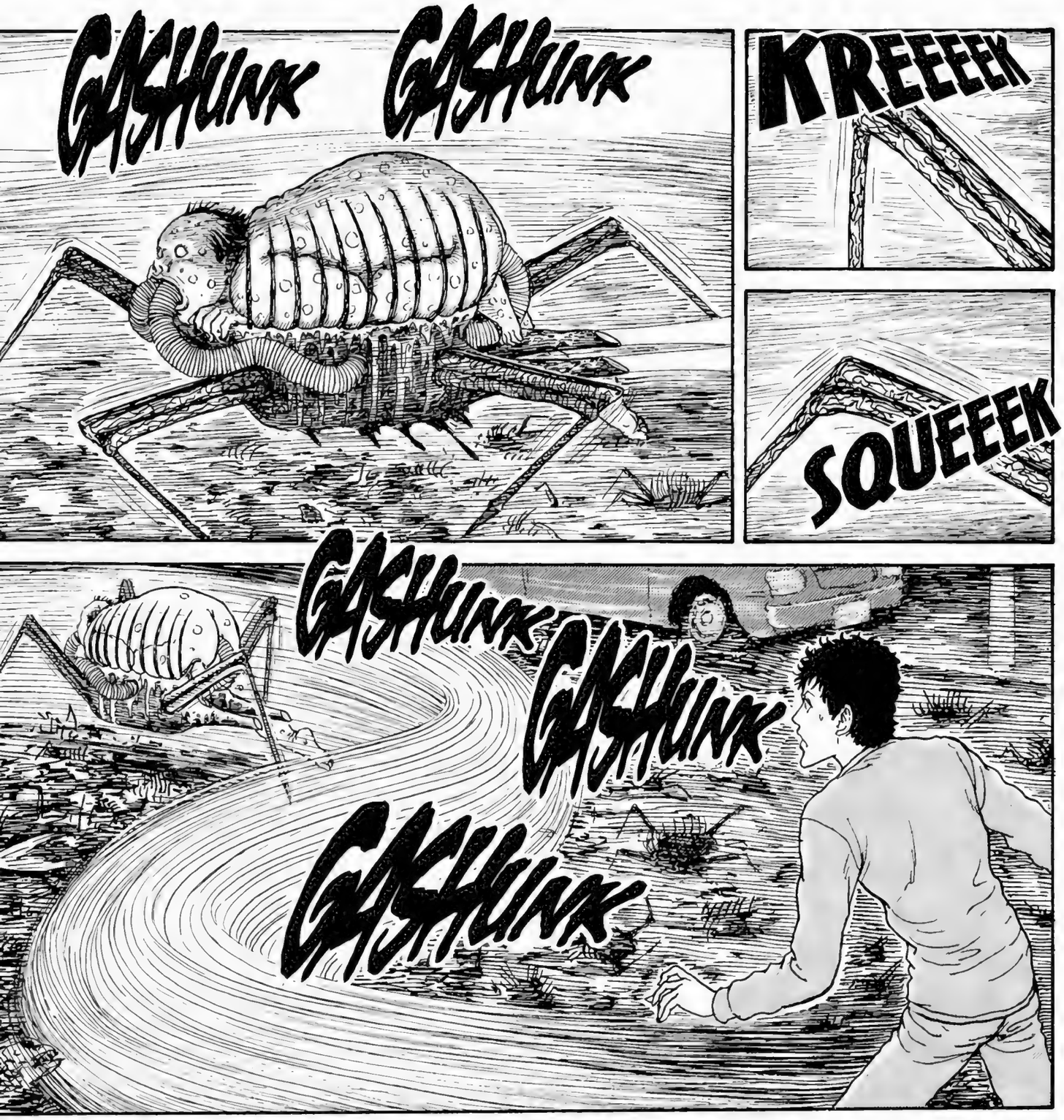
FSSSSSSSSHHHHHHH

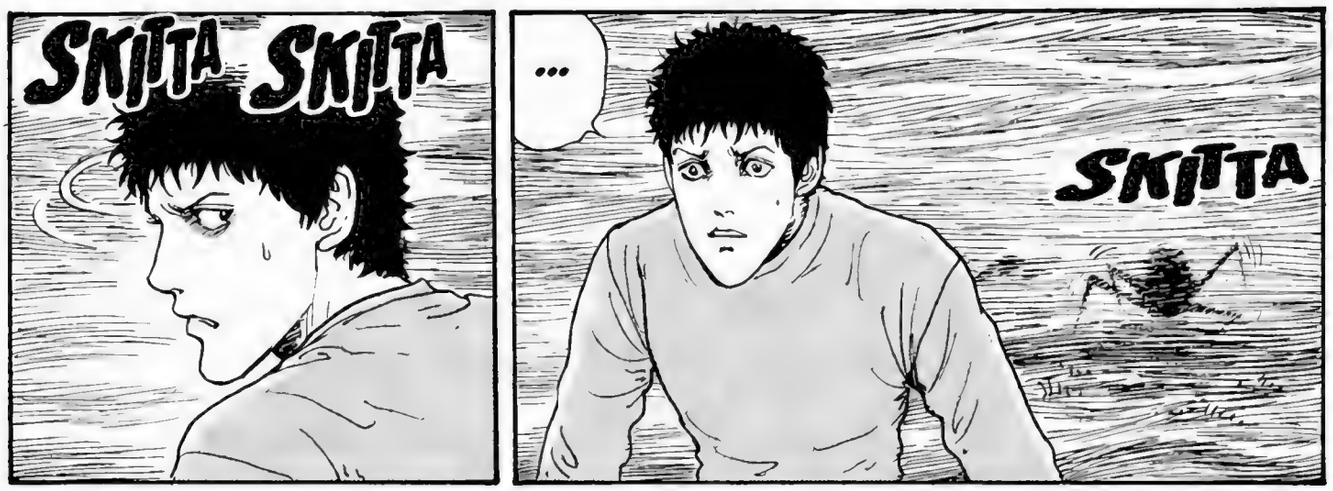


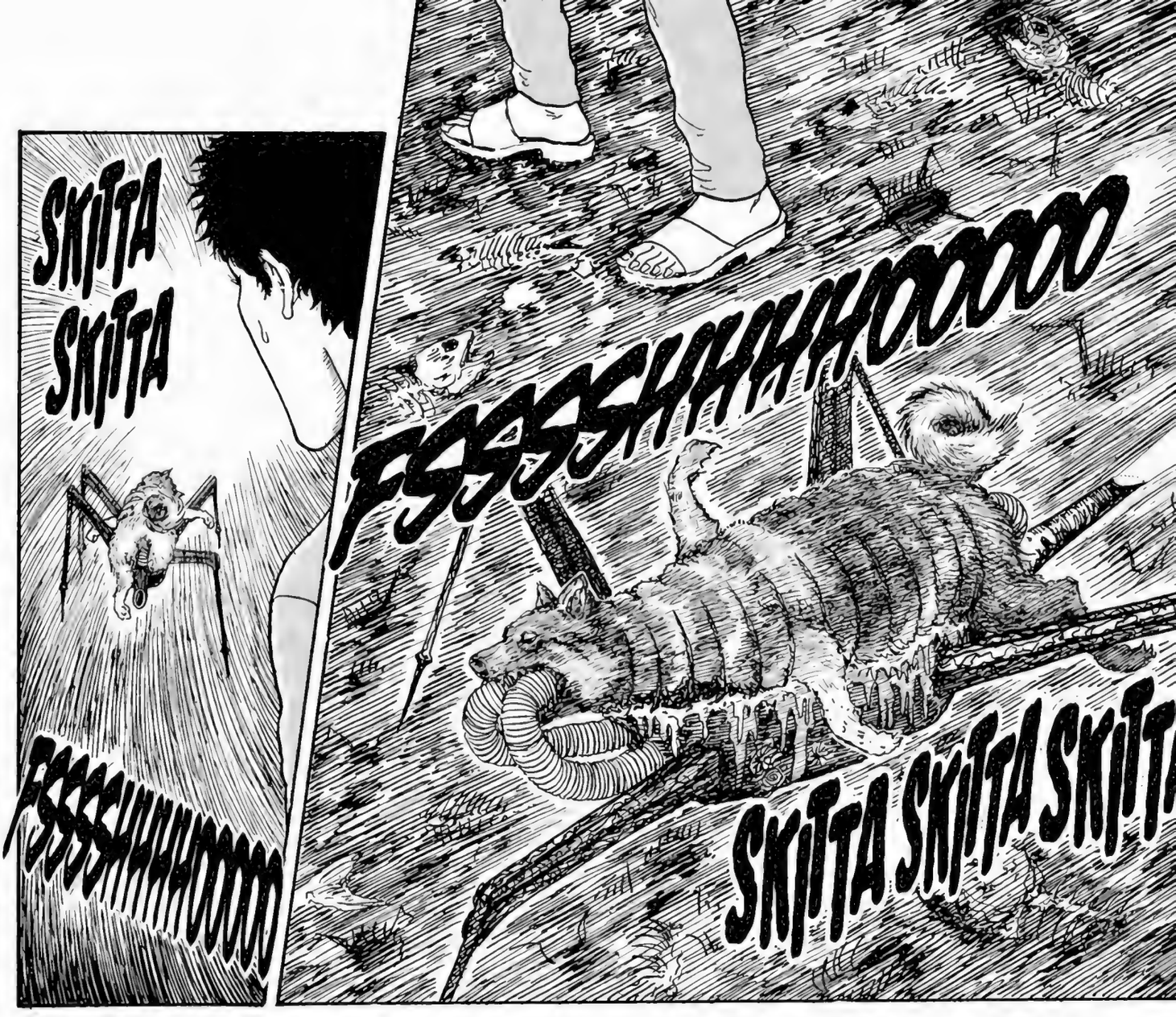
FSSHH

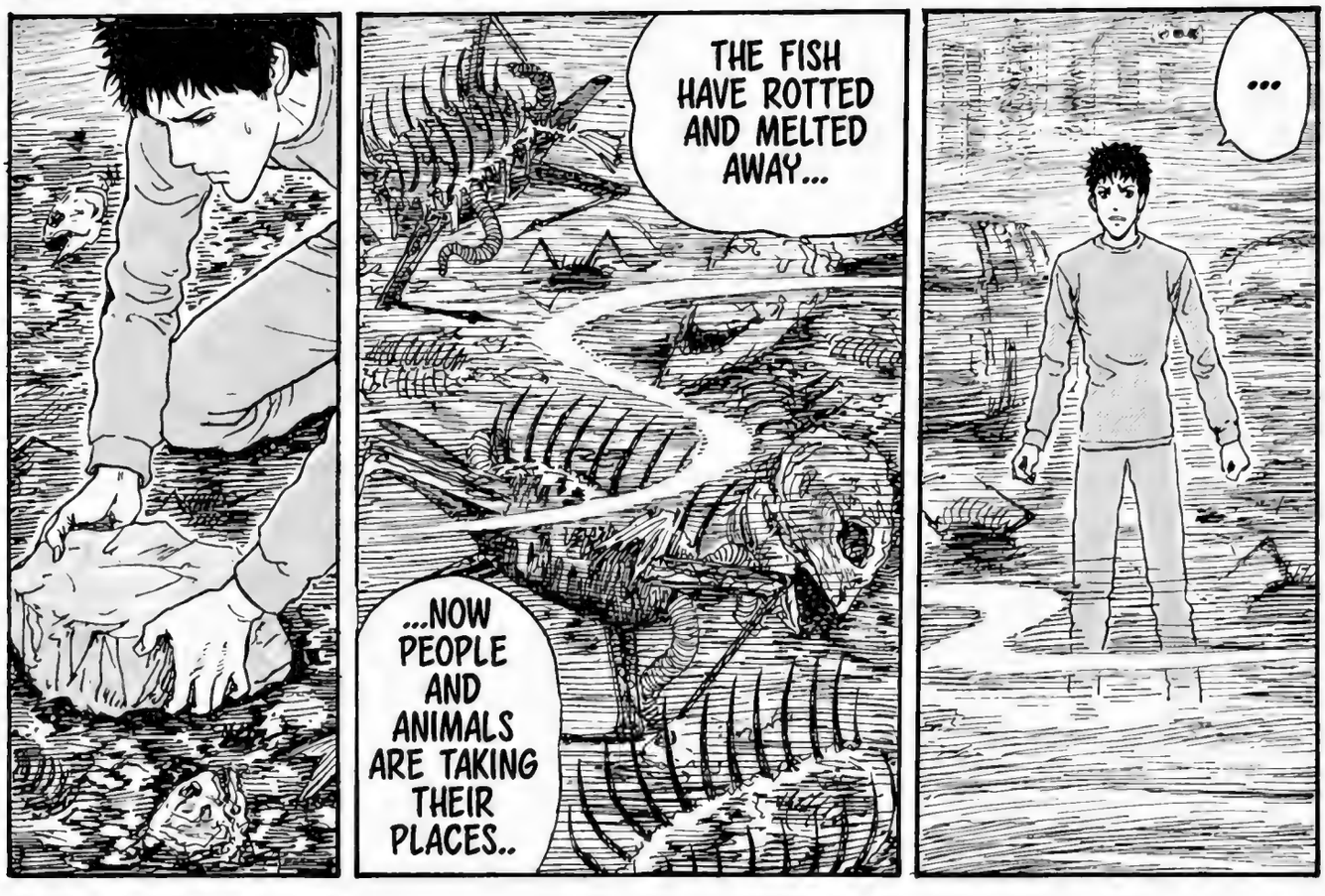
WHOM
AH!!
SQUEE!
GGH...
GUH...GUH...
SKWUH...


SNAAAAP
SLURP
GG
G
FSSSHHHHHH
SHUP


GASHUNK GASHUNK
KREEEEK
SQUEEEK
GASHUNK GASHUNK GASHUNK


SKITTA SKITTA
...
SKITTA


SKITTA
SKITTA
FSSSHHHOOOO
FSSSHHHOOOO
SKITTA SKITTA SKITT


THE FISH HAVE ROTTED AND MELTED AWAY...
...NOW PEOPLE AND ANIMALS ARE TAKING THEIR PLACES..
...

WSH
...BUT I'M GOING TO DESTROY THEM ALL!!
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS...
CLAANNGG
HUFF ... HUFF ...
BAMM!
BANG!

HUFF...
HUFF...
...
I HAVE THIS FEELING ...
...I'M BEING WATCHED ...
KRIK
52

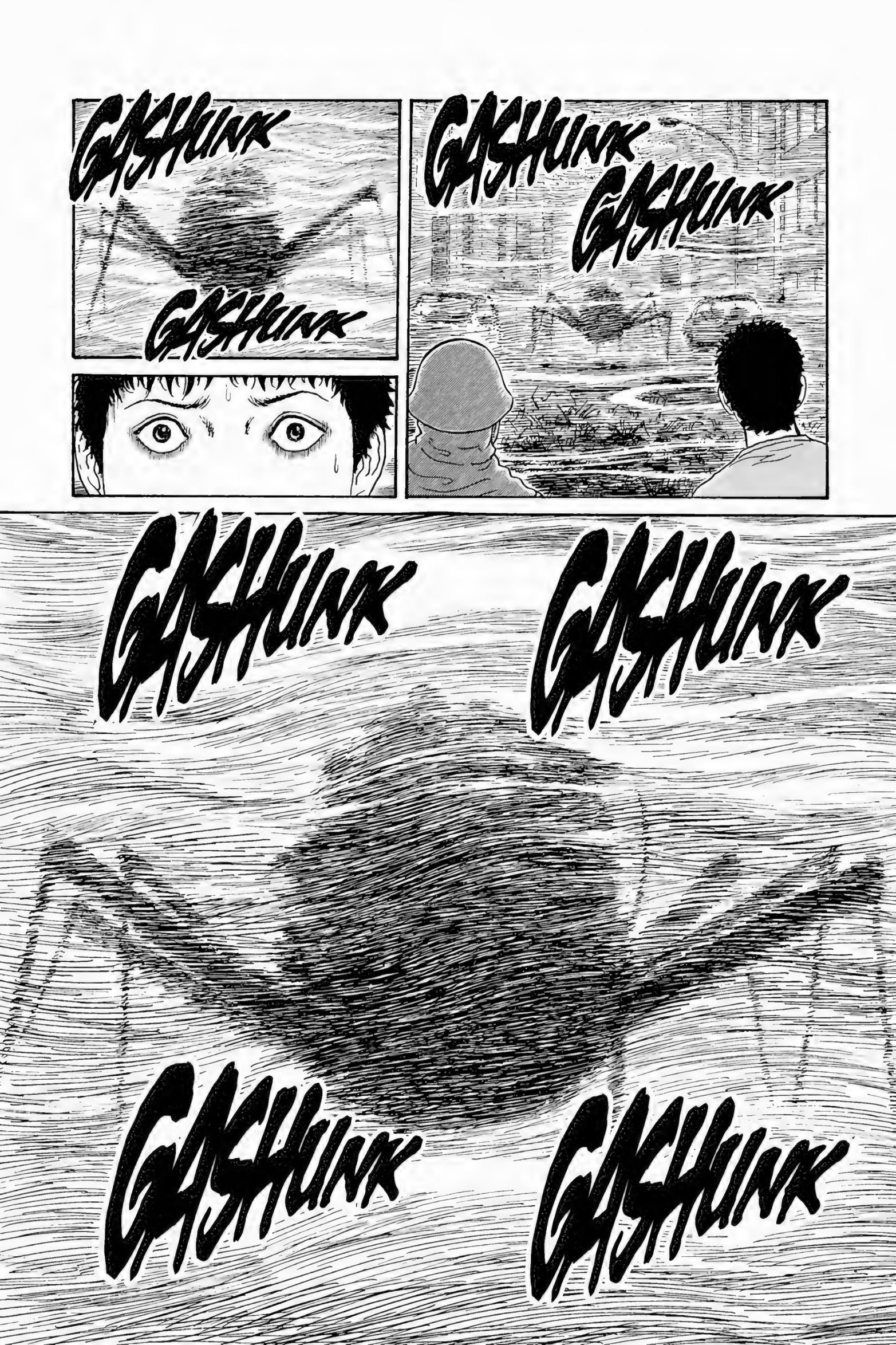
KRIK KRIK KRIK
GET IT OFF ME!
OWWW!
OW!
UWAAA!
TUGGGGG
TUGGGG
GOD DAMN IT!
GACHONK

...IT'S LIKE A MINEFIELD...
I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL...
DAMN! THAT HURT!
HUFF... HUFF...
OH GOD, OH GOD!
IT HURTS!
HELP ME! HELP ME!!
BA-BA-BLAM
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

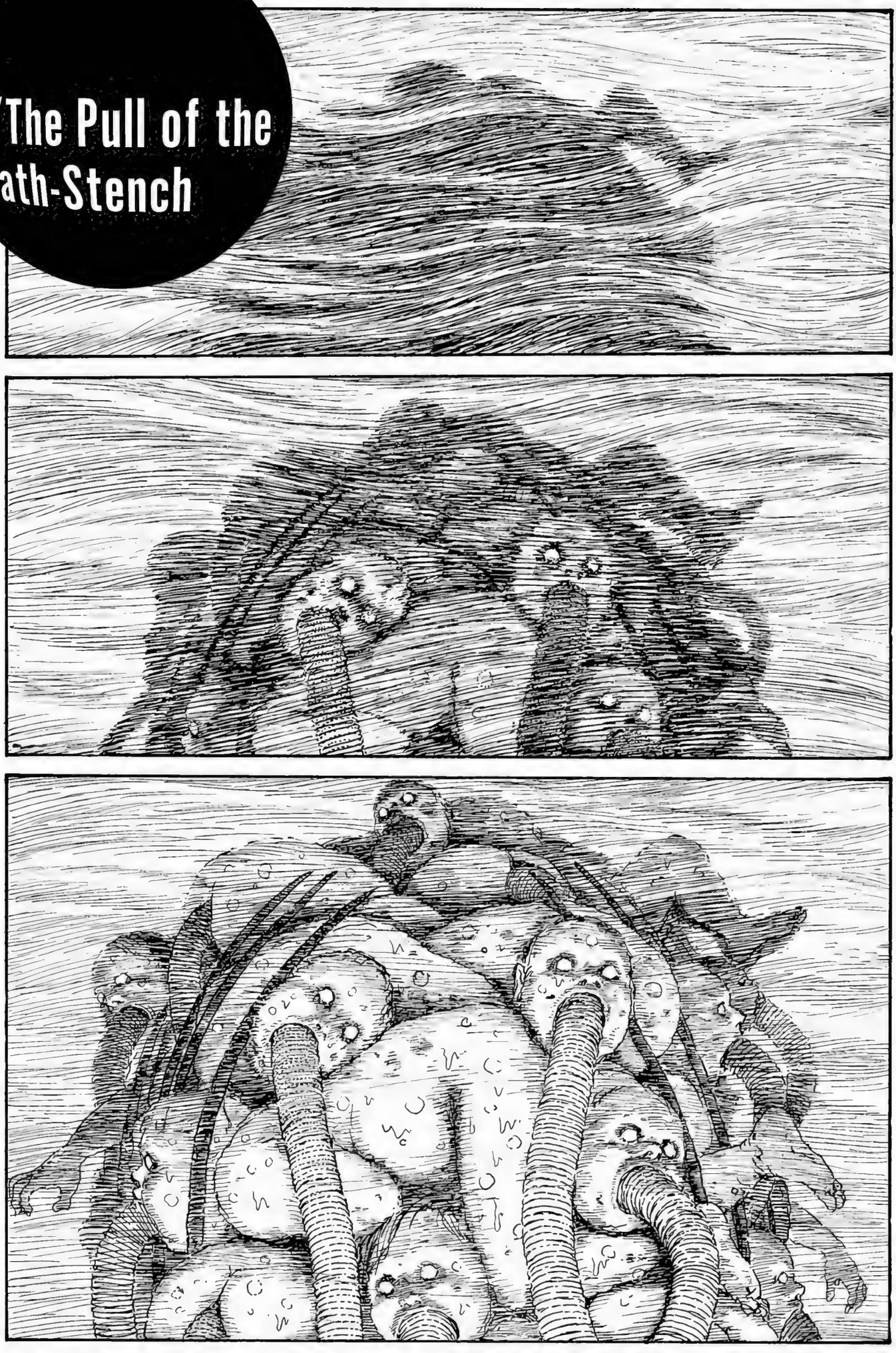
BA-BA-BLAM
BA-BLAM
POP
POP
ZING
GASHONK GASHONK
BLAM
BLAM
FSHHOOOOOOO
ZING
AH!
ZING

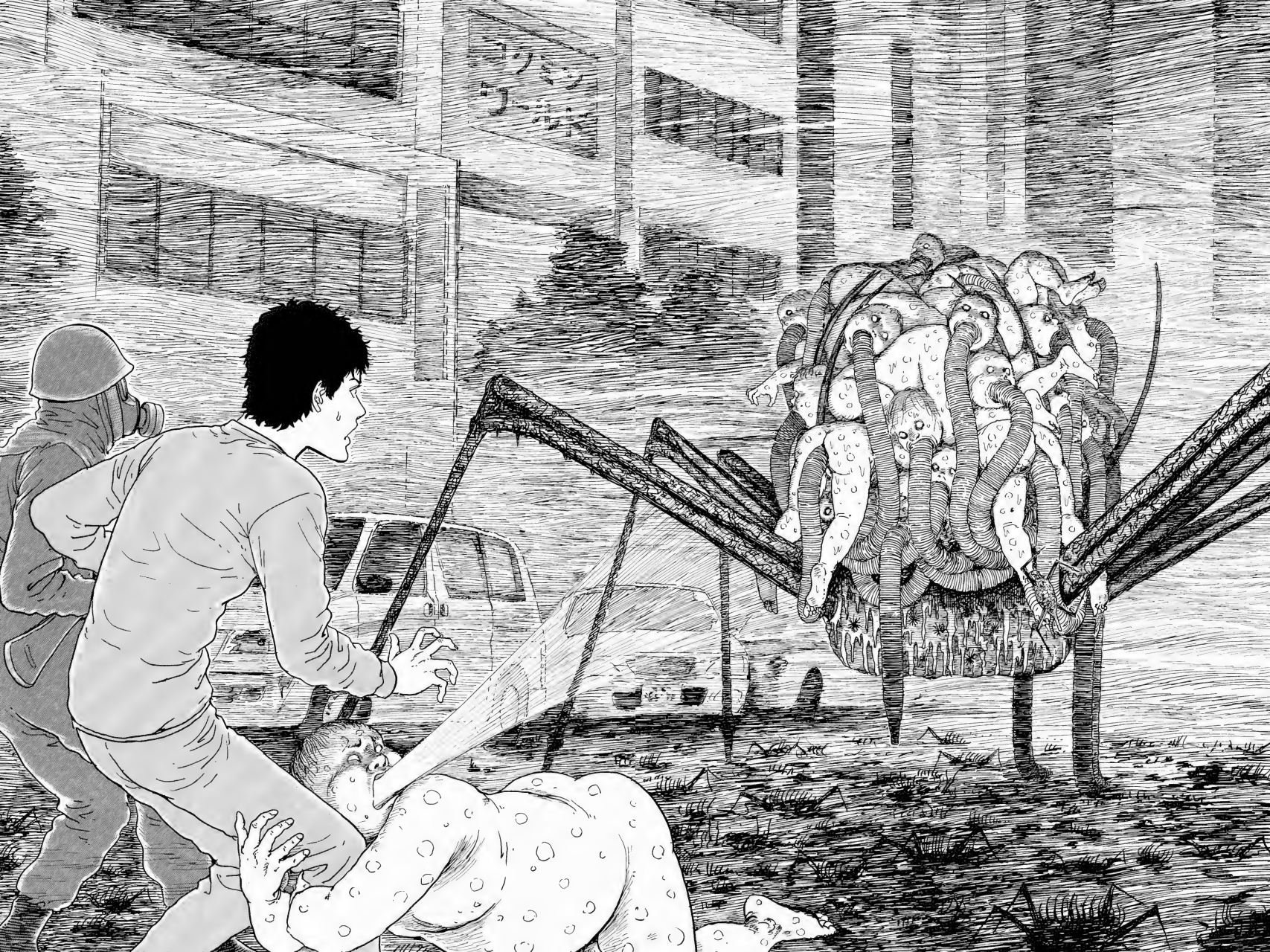
THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!
SHUT UP!
HEY...WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THERE'S A MAN ON THAT THING!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
LOOK! THEY'RE JUST FEEDING THE MACHINE!
EVEN IF THEY WERE ALIVE, THEY'RE NOT HUMAN ANYMORE!
TRY TO STOP ME AND I'LL SHOOT YOU, TOO!
I SAID SHUT UP!
ARE THOSE YOUR ORDERS!?
NO!! YOU CAN'T JUST KILL THEM! I'M SURE THERE'S A WAY TO RESCUE THEM!
...

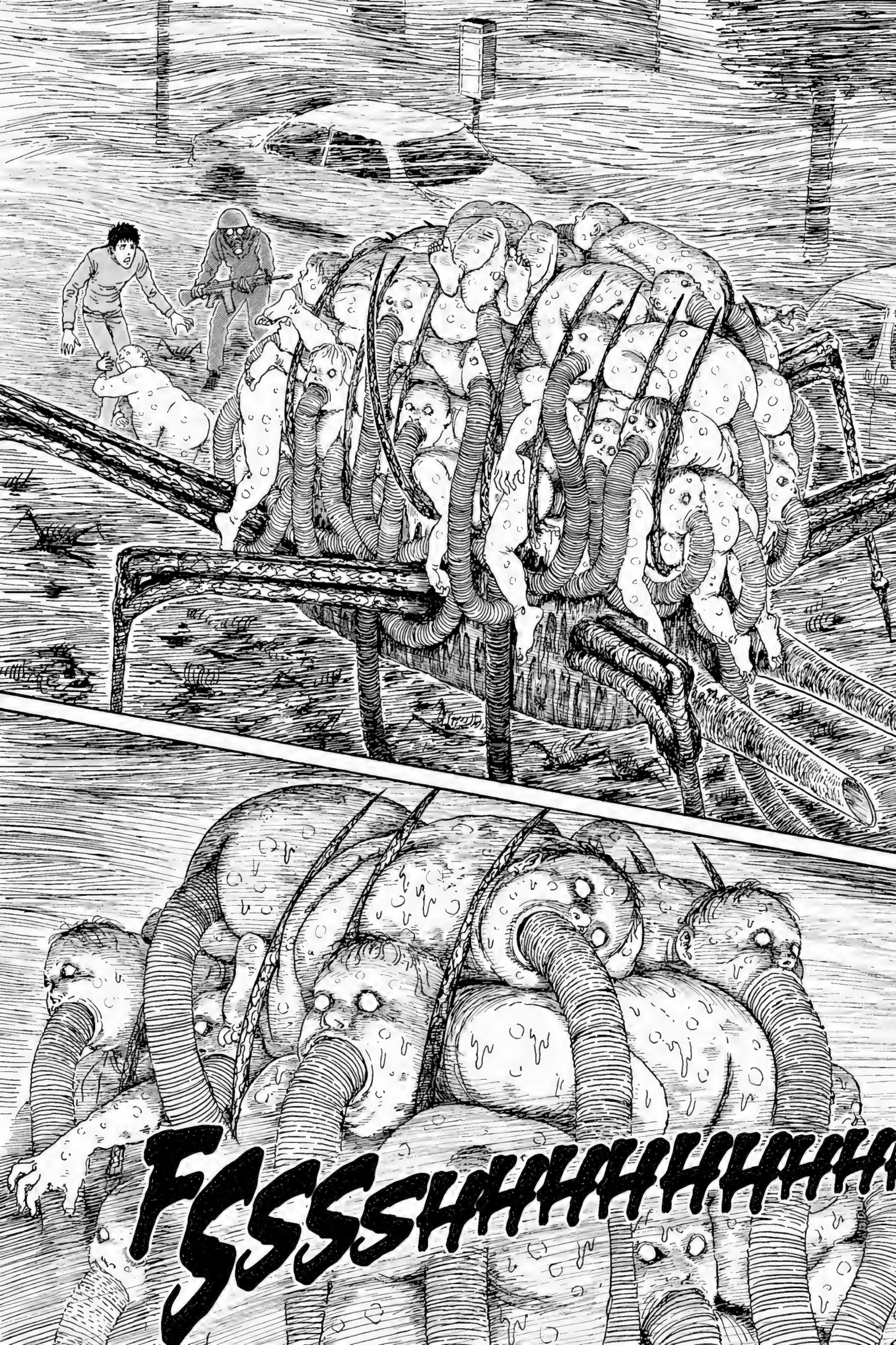
HELP ME! HELP ME!
H-
HELP! HELP!
AGH!
WAAGGHH!
TUGG
HEL...
FSSSHHHHH
GASHUNK GASHUNK
...THE LEGS ARE COMING !!
WH- WHAT HAPPENED?
THE LEGS... THE LEGS...


GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

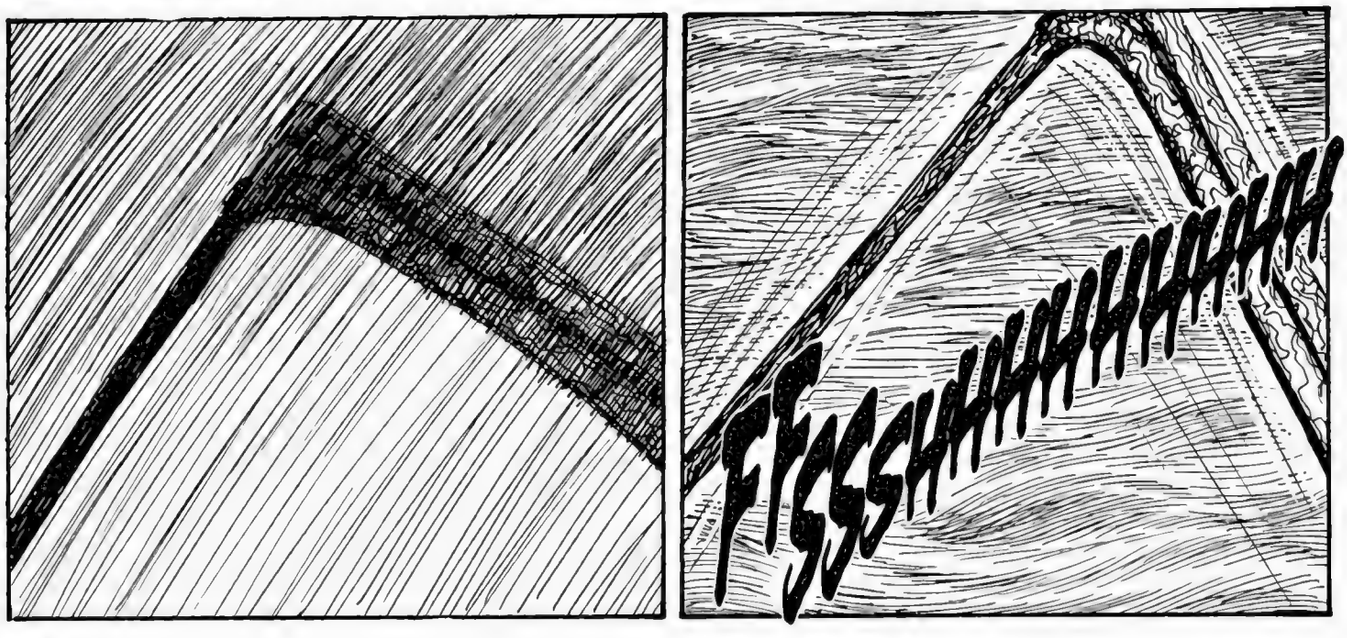
14/The Pull of the Death-Stench



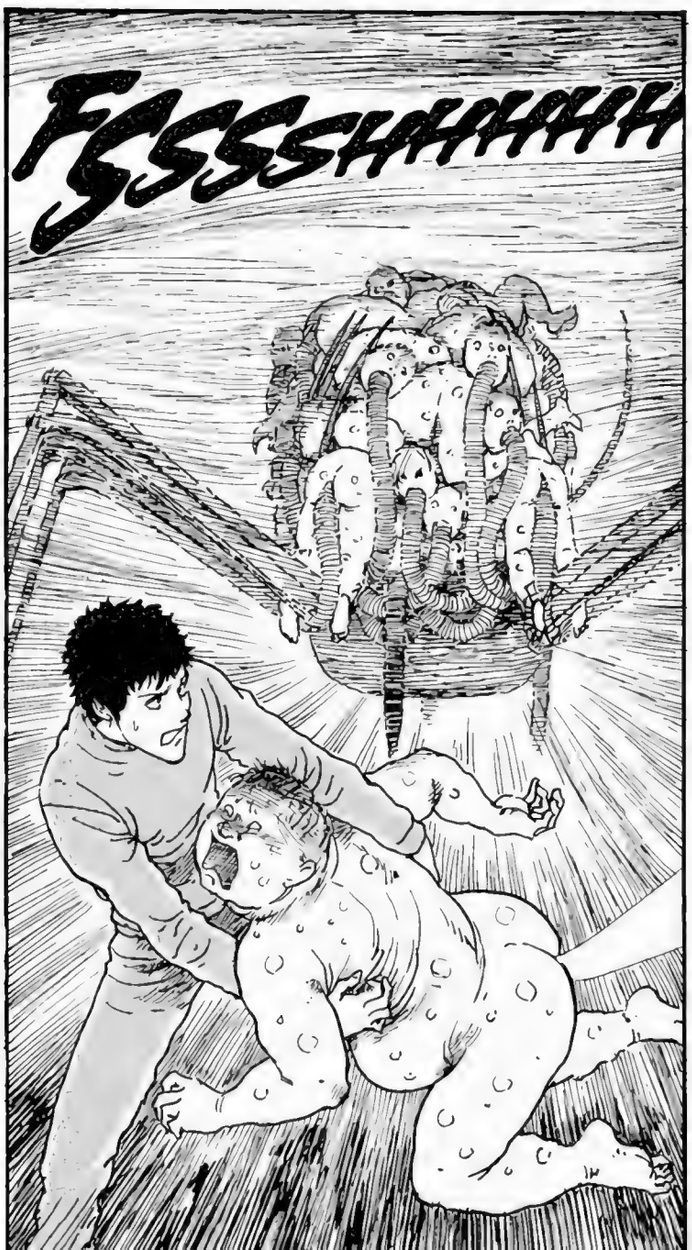


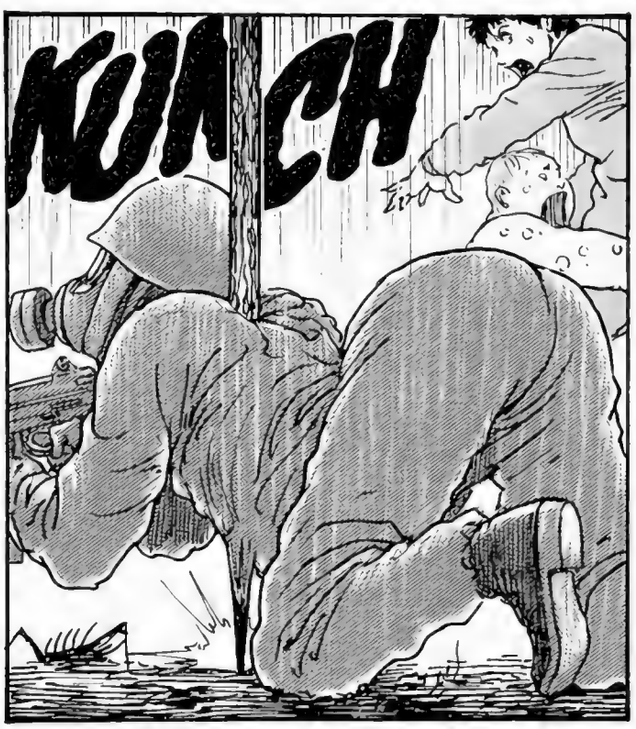

FSSSHHHHHHHHH

BA-BA-BLAM
M-MONSTER!
WH-WHAT THE--
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A WALKING SHARK!!
BA-BLAMBLAM
ZWING
ZWING


FFSSSHHHHHHHHHHH

SHUPP
FWOOSH

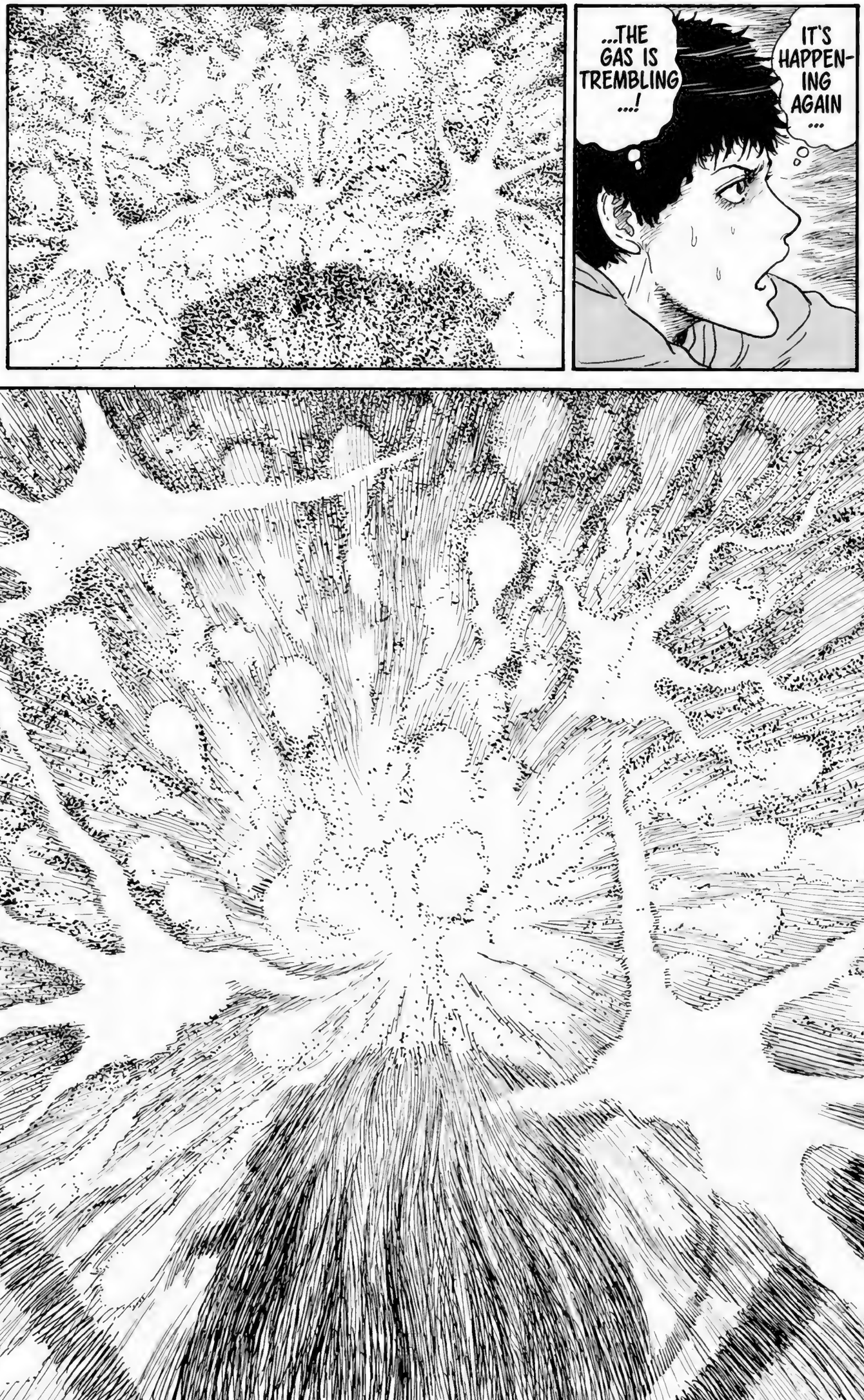

FSSSHHHHHH


KUNCH

AIEEE
!
RUN!!

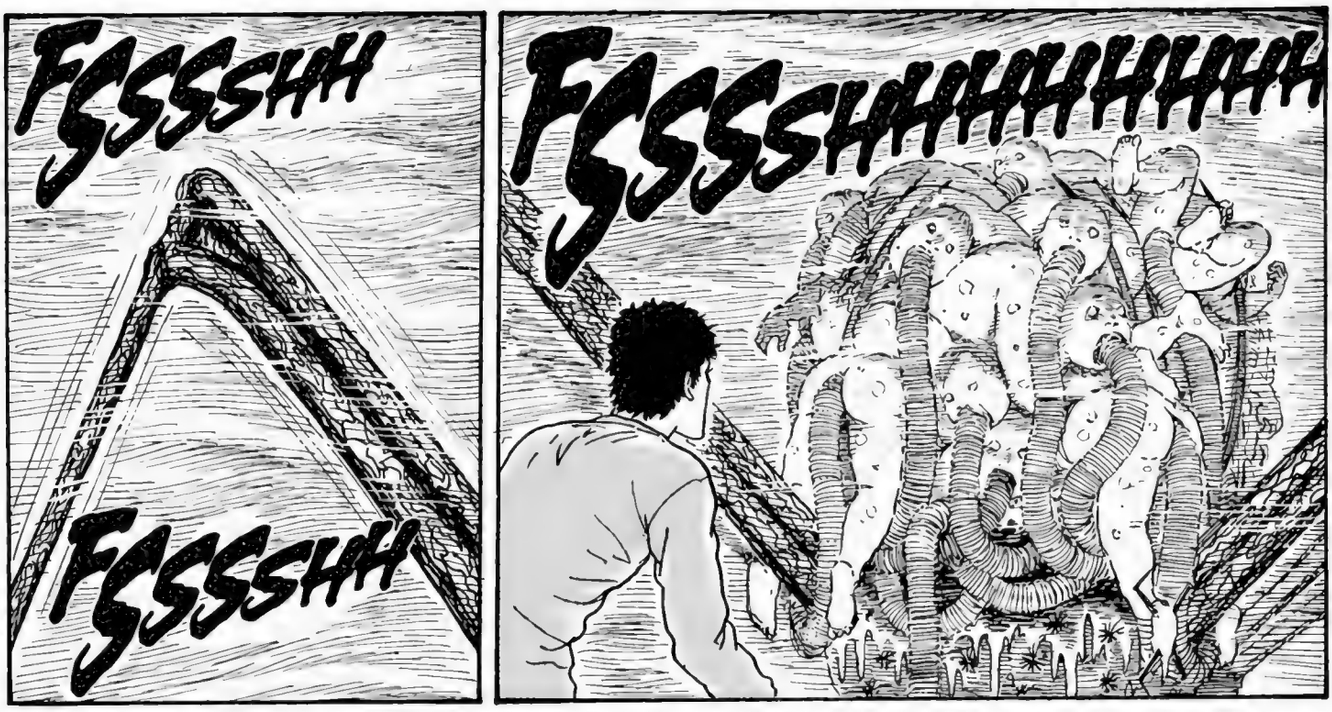
HWOOOOOOOOOO
HUH?
EEEE...!
HWOOO
!?
AGGHGH...
GRAB MY HAND!
TUGG
AIEEEE!
HWOOO

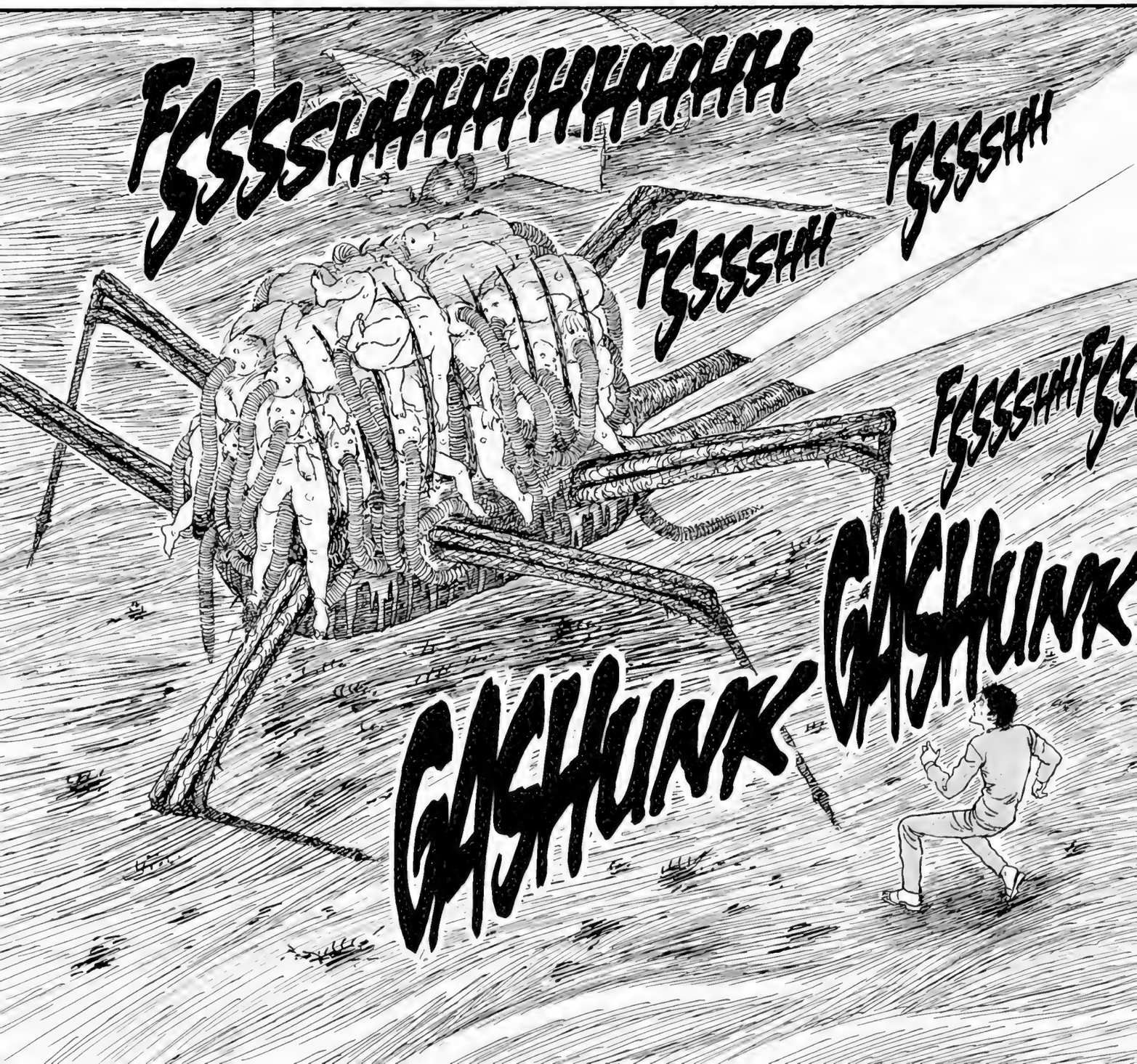
AIEEE...
HUH!?
WHAT IS THIS? HE'S GETTING SUCKED IN..
EEEE...!
Hoooooooooo


...THE GAS IS TREMBLING ...!
IT'S HAPPEN-ING AGAIN ...

HIEEE!

GACHONK
GYAAA!
UMFF..


FSSSSHH
FSSSSHH
FSSSSHHHHHHHHHH

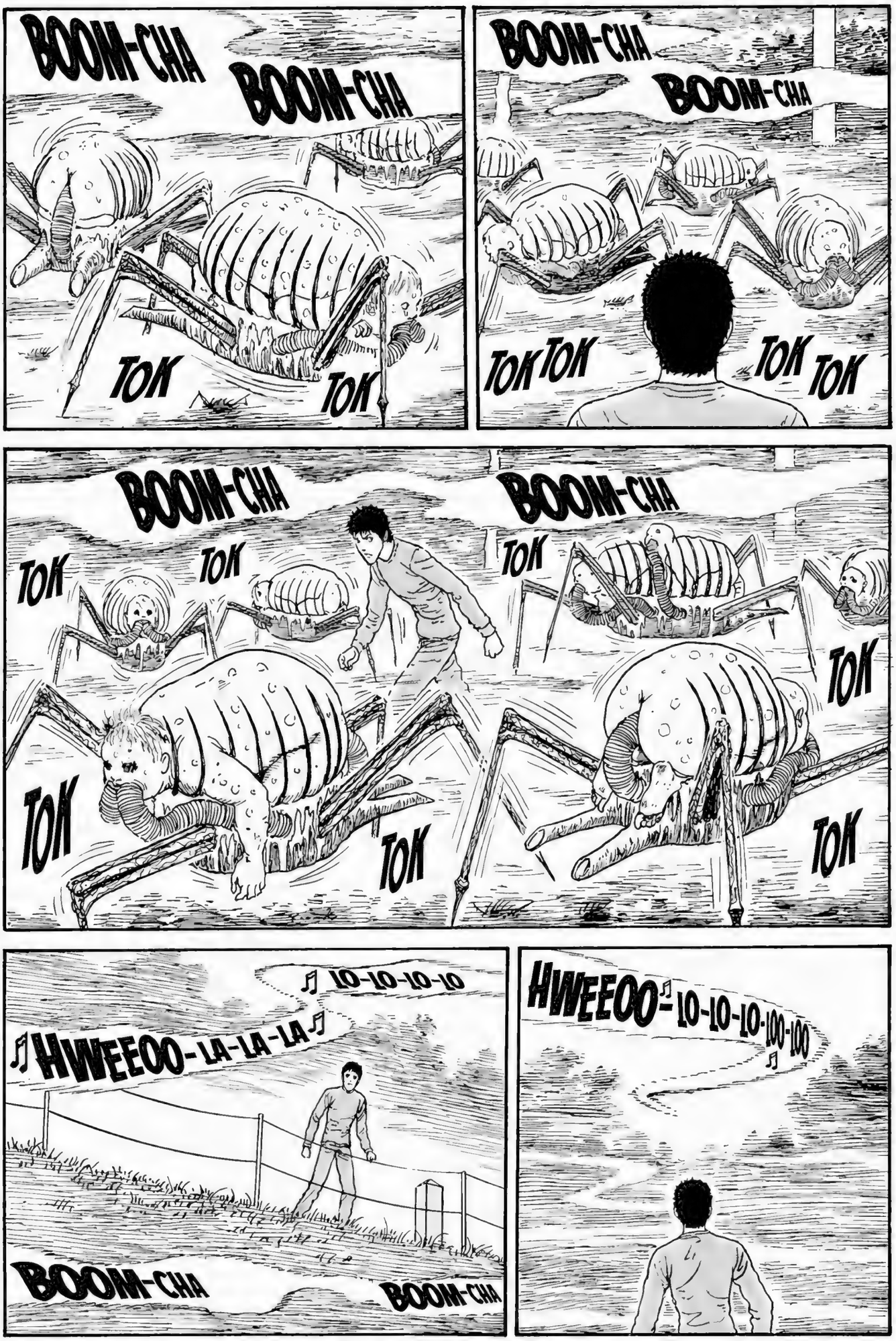

FSSSSHHHHHHHHHH
FSSSSHH
FSSSSHH
FSSSSHHFSS
CRSHUNK
CRSHUNK

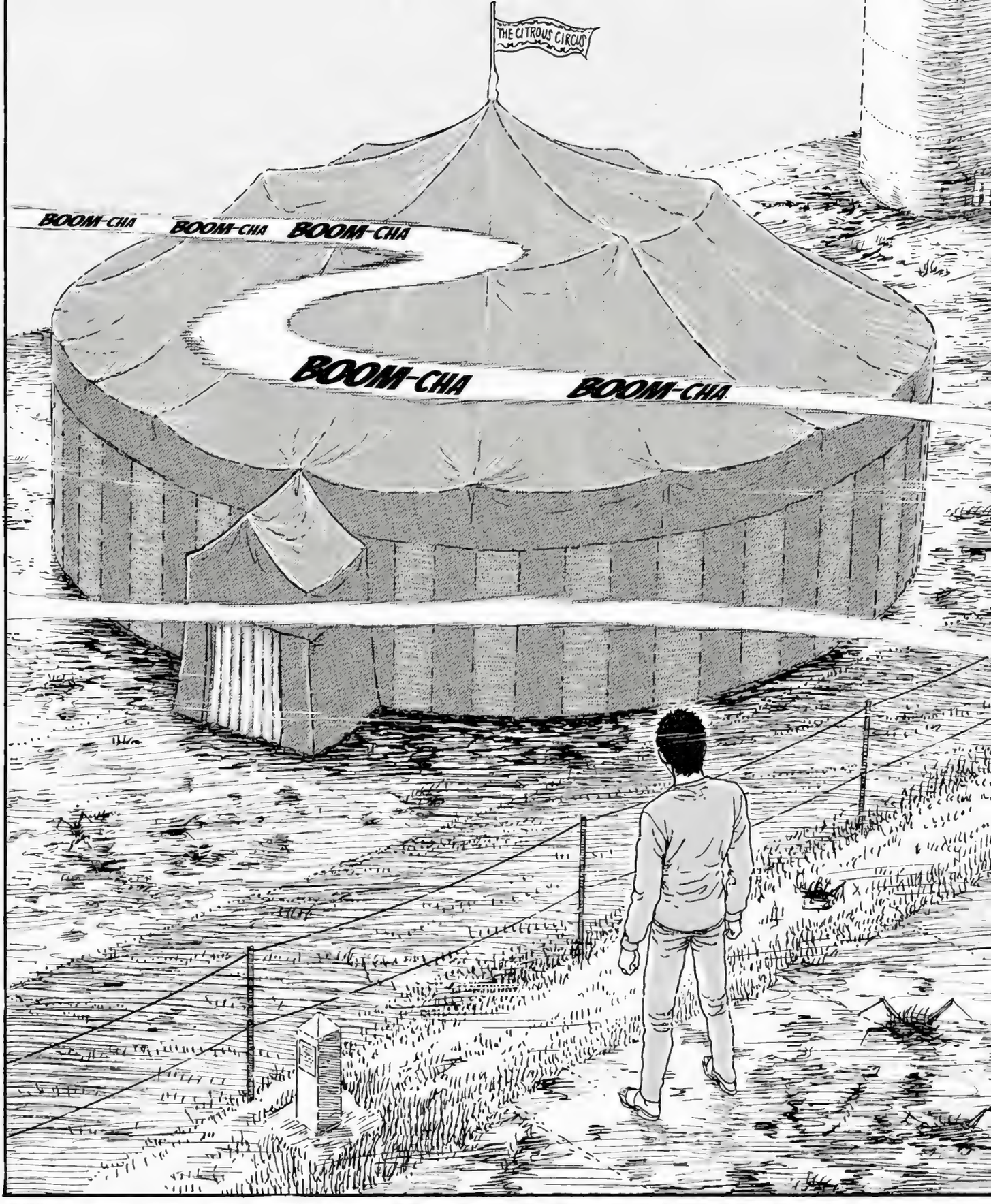
FSSSHH
FSSSHH
HHoooooooooo
HHoooooooooo

AAGGH!
HUFF!
HUFF!
GO AWAY !!
NO!!

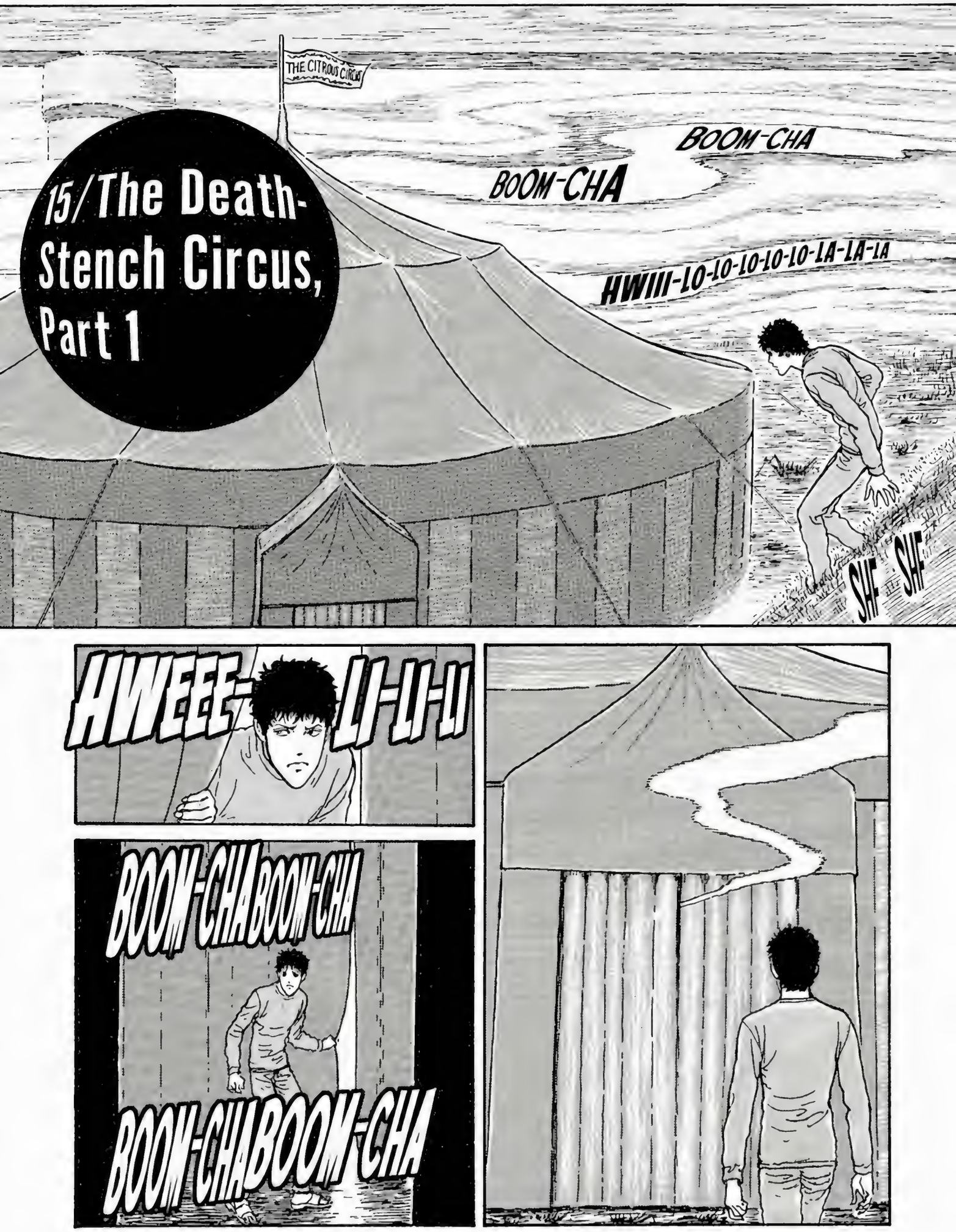
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
DAMN IT...
...G-GO AWAY!!
♫HWEEOO-LOO-LOO-LA-LA♫
BOOM-CHA BOOM-CHA
♫HWOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO♫
?

♫HWEEOO-LOO-LOO-LOO♫
♫LA-LA-LA-LOO♫
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
...I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE IT...
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
IT'S STRANGE ...
HWIII-LI-LI-LI♫LO-LO-LO
LA-LA-LA
LO-LO-LO
HWIII-LI-LI-LI♫
LOO-LOO-LOO-LOO-♫
MUSIC ...
BOOM-CHA BOOM-CHA
...BUT WHERE'S IT COMING FROM...?
♫HWOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO♫LOO-LOO-LA-LA♫
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA

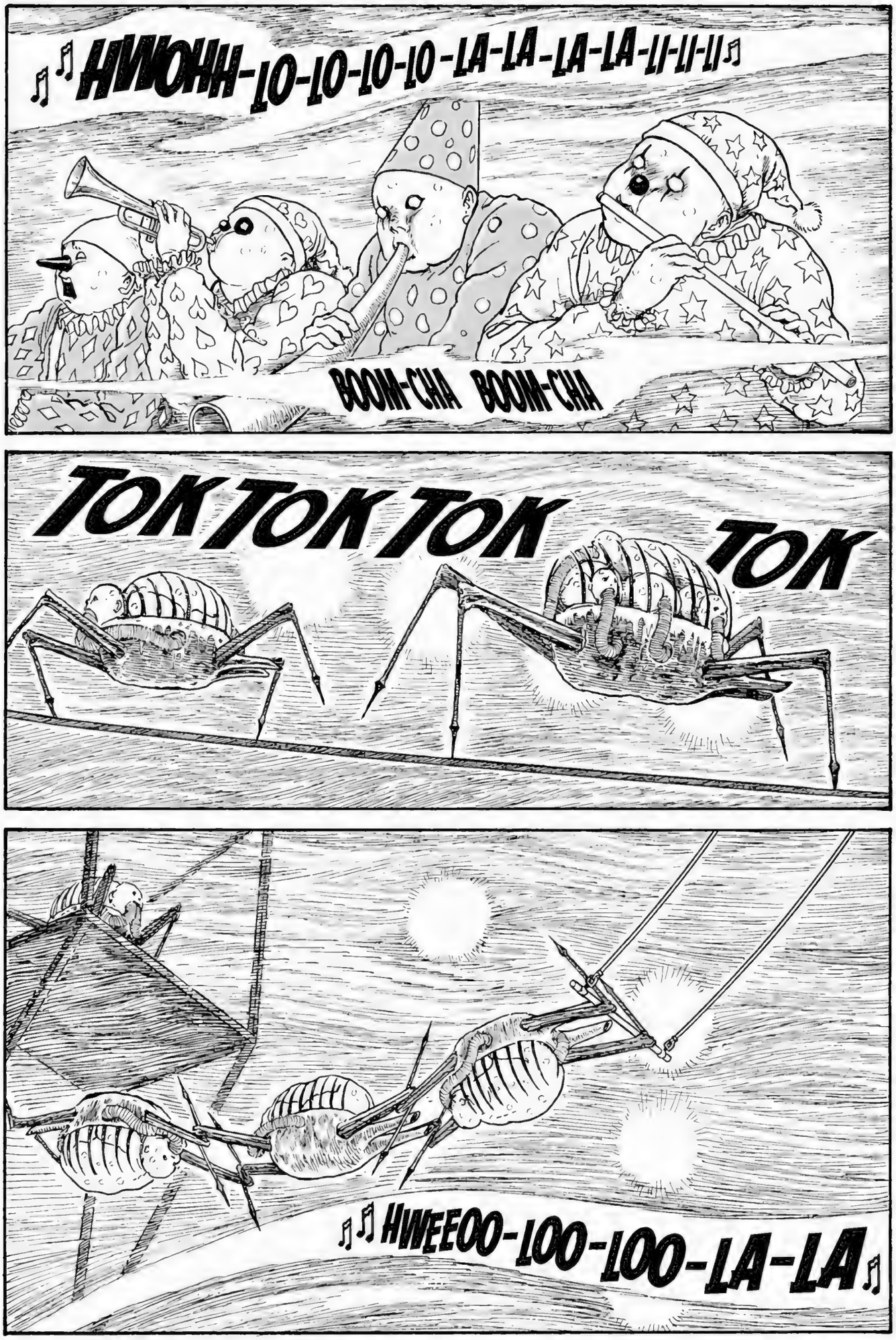

BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
TOK
TOK
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
TOK TOK
TOK TOK
BOOM-CHA
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
BOOM-CHA
TOK
TOK
TOK
♫ LO-LO-LO-LO
♫HWEEOO-LA-LA-LA♫
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
HWEEOO♫-LO-LO-LO-LOO-LOO♫

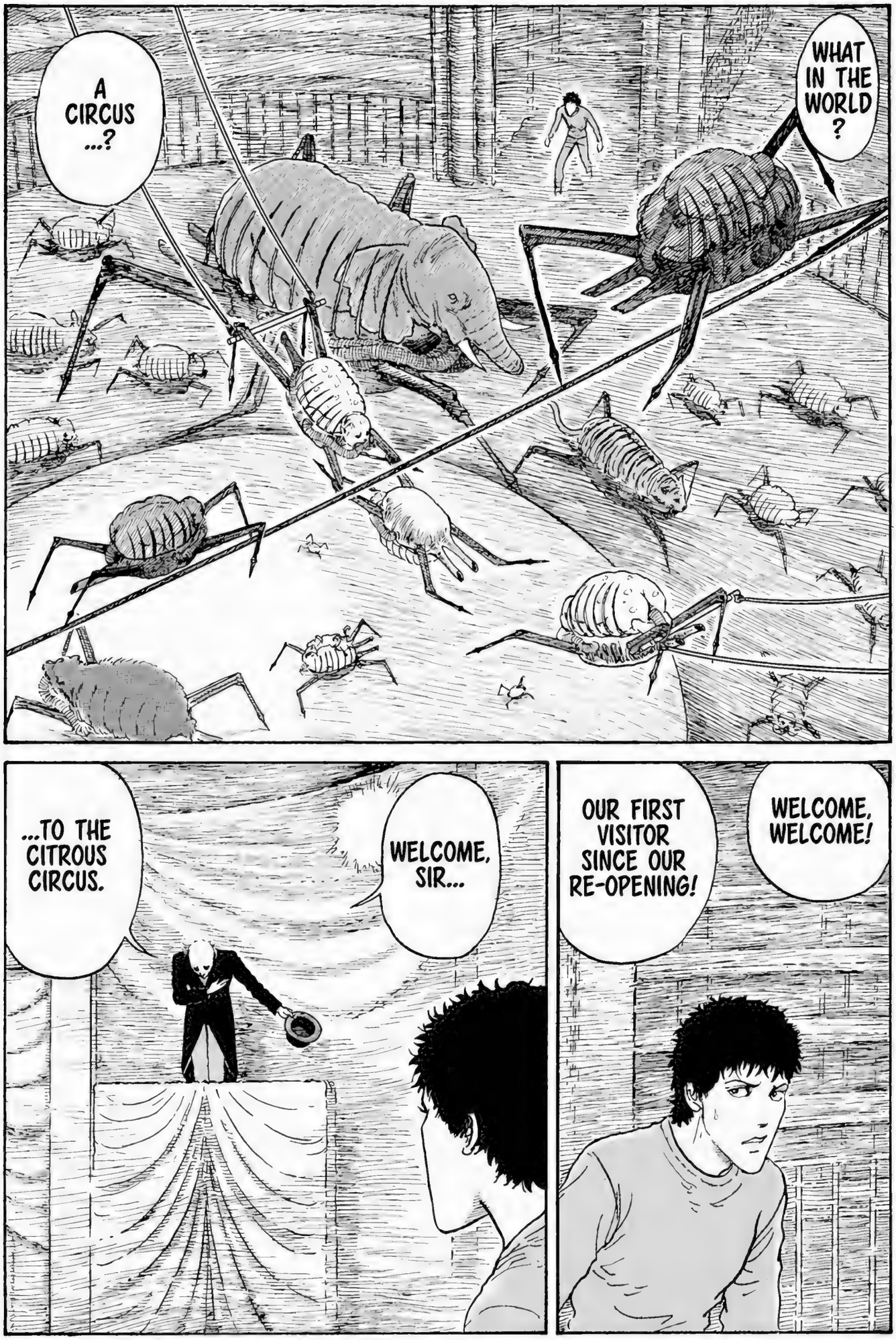

THE CITROUS CIRCUS
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA

HWEEOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-OOO-
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA

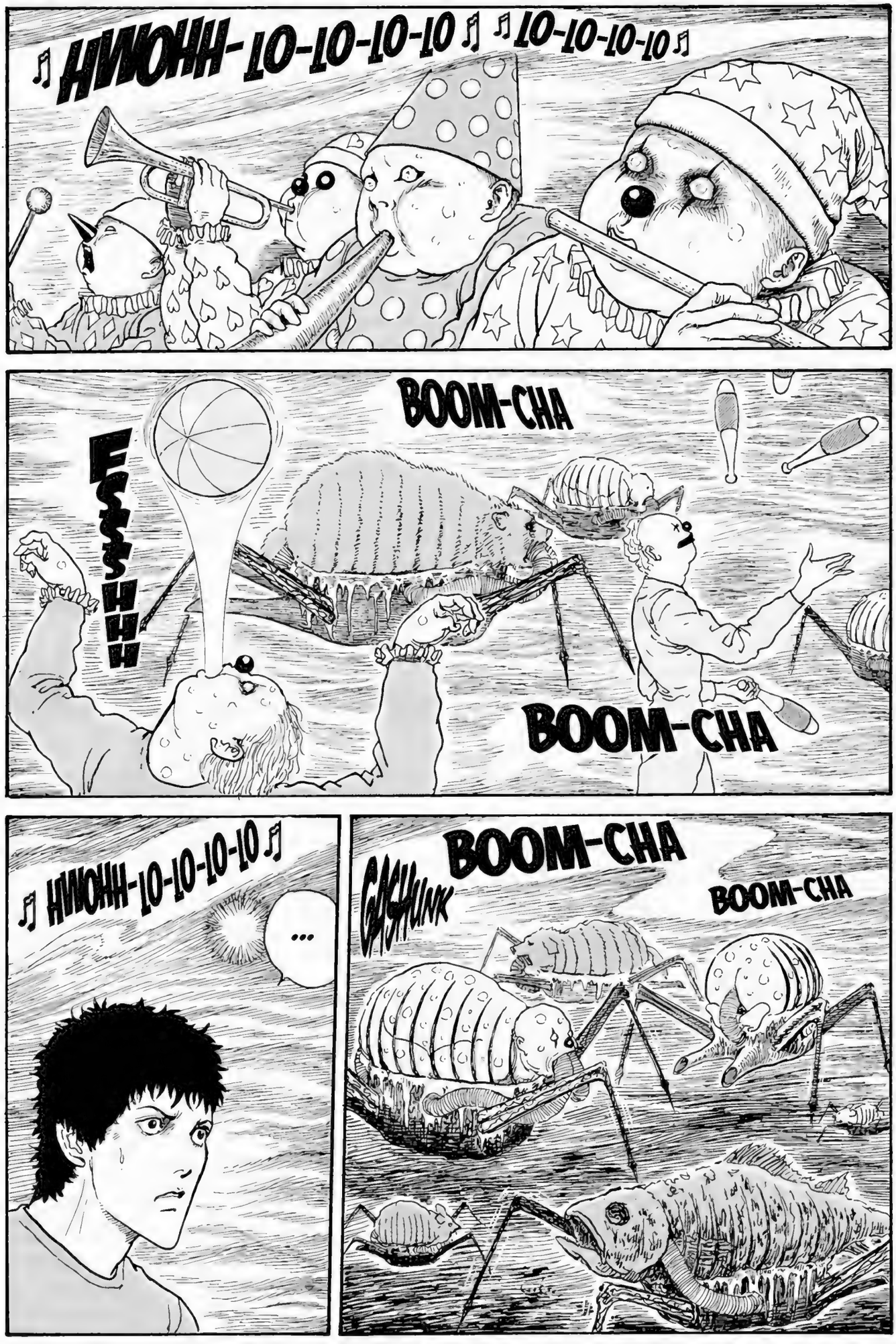

15/The Death-Stench Circus, Part 1
THE CITROUS CIRCUS
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
HWIII-LO-LO-LO-LO-LO-LA-LA-LA
SHF SHF
HWEEE-LI-LI-LI
BOOM-CHABOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHABOOM-CHA

BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
♫HWIII-LO-LO HWIII-LO♫
♫HWIII-LI-LI LO-LO-LO-LO♫
CITROUS CIRCUS

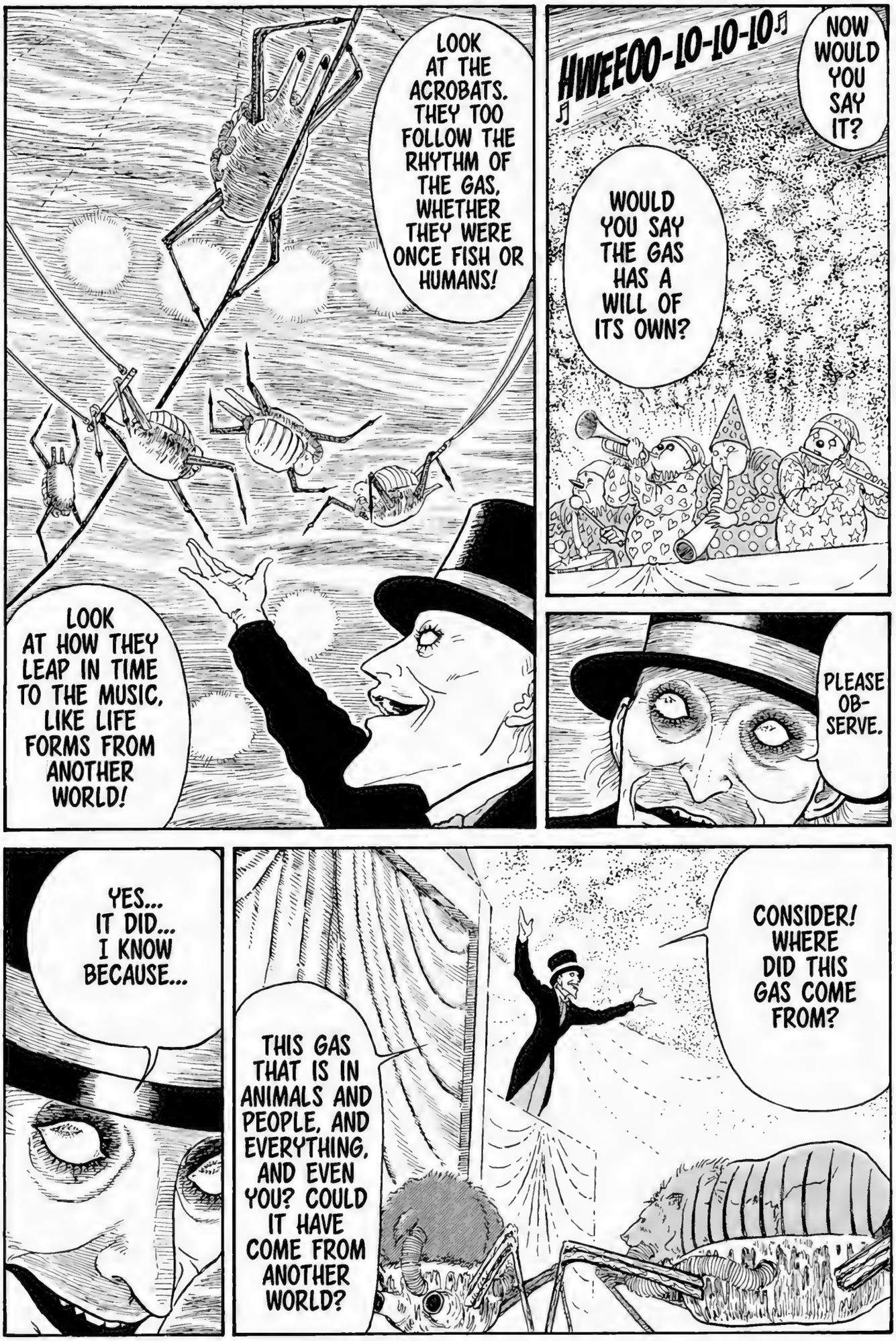

♫♫ HMMHH-LO-LO-LO-LO-LA-LA-LA-LA-LI-LI-LI ♫
BOOM-CHA BOOM-CHA
TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK
♫♫ HWEEOO-LOO-LOO-LA-LA ♫


A CIRCUS ...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
...TO THE CITROUS CIRCUS.
WELCOME, SIR...
OUR FIRST VISITOR SINCE OUR RE-OPENING!
WELCOME, WELCOME!

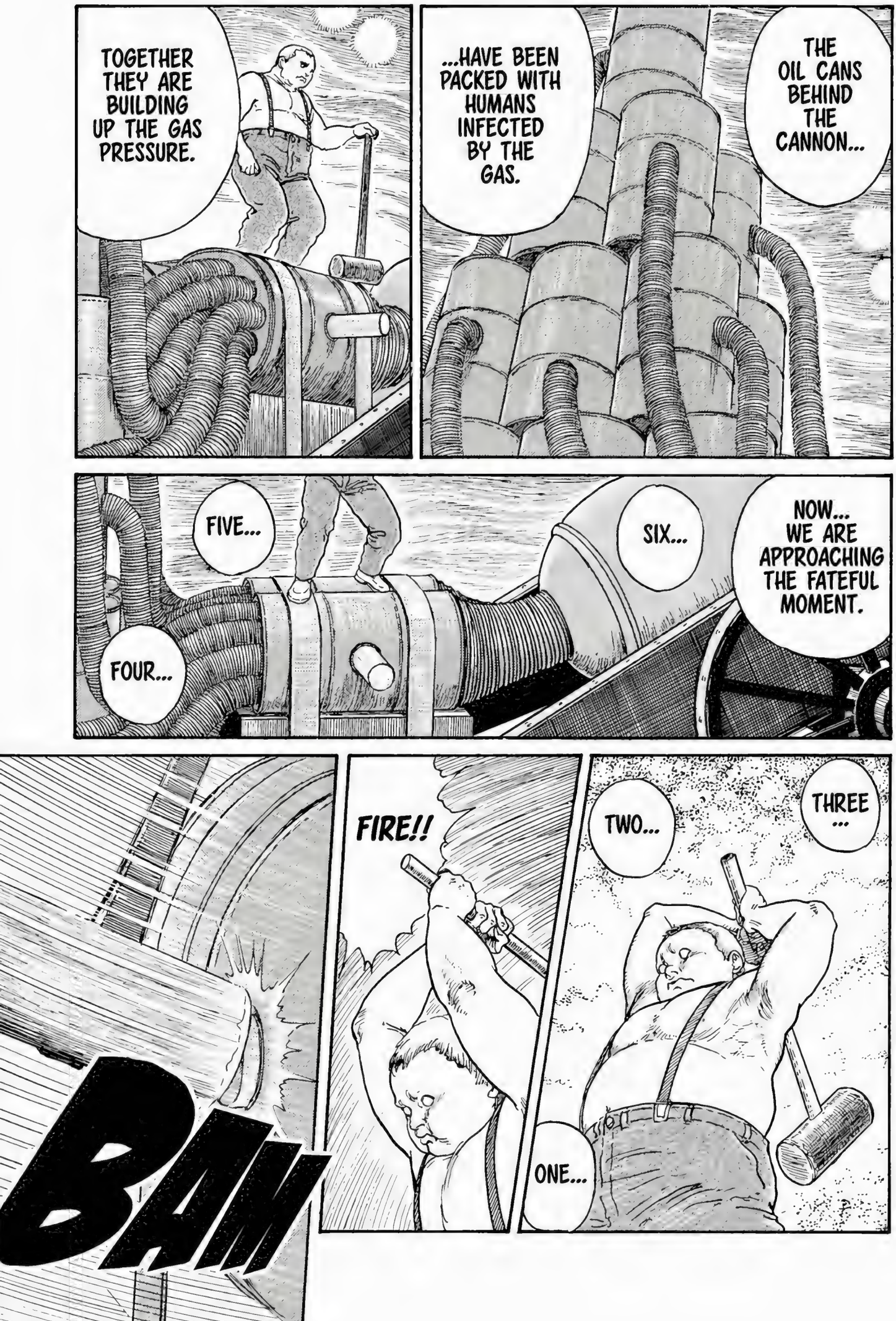
WE ONLY HOPE THAT YOU TAKE THESE DREAMS WITH YOU INTO THE DREAM WORLD WHERE WE ARE ALL GOING...
WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PREPARED FOR YOU TODAY.
...WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE CITROUS ORCHESTRA.
ALLOW US TO BEGIN...
...
♫ HWOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO ♫
♫ HWEE-LI-LI-LI-LI ♫
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA

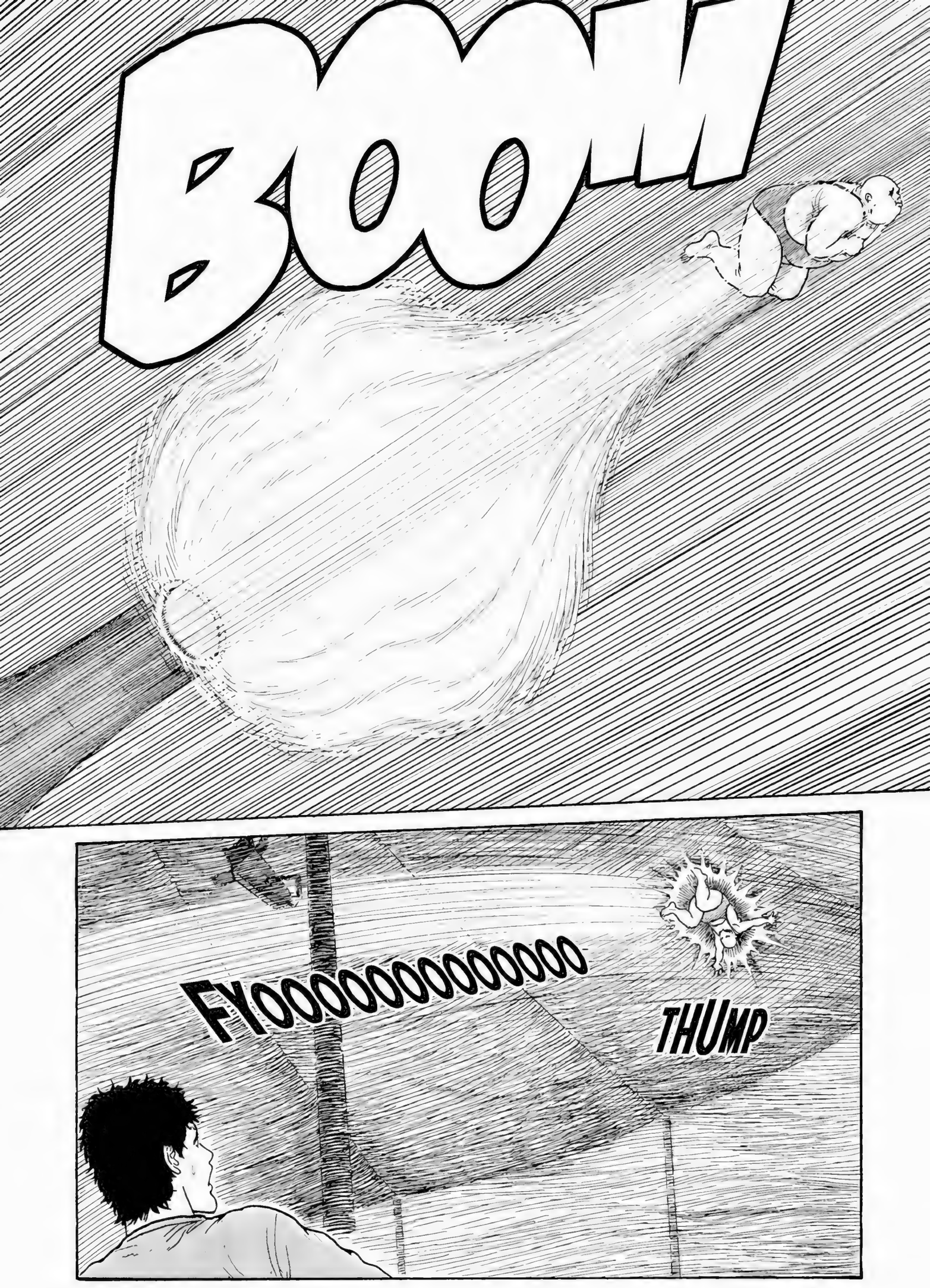

♫ HMOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO ♫ ♫ LO-LO-LO-LO ♫
FSSSHHH
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
♫ HMOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO ♫
...
GASHUNK
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA

IT IS THE MARCH OF ANOTHER WORLD.
BOOM-CHA
♫♫ HWOOO-
LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-
HOW DO YOU LIKE THESE ULULATIONS, THE FLUTING AND PIPING? DOES IT SOUND STRANGE?
NO, NOT STRANGE...IT SOUNDS LIKE NOTHING YOU HAVE EVER HEARD OR COULD HAVE EVER HOPED TO IMAGINE.
DO YOU NOTICE THAT THE FINGERS AND LIPS OF THE FLUTISTS ARE NOT MOVING?
DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
PLEASE OBSERVE.
HWOHH-LO-LO-LO-LO
♫
...AND AS IT POURS FROM THEIR MOUTHS IN RHYTHM IT MAKES THESE SOUNDS.
THEY TOO HAVE BEEN INFECTED BY THE GAS...
♫ HWOO-LI-LA-LI-LI ♫
HOW, THEN, DO THEY MAKE THIS MUSIC?
PAH-PAH-PAH
THE INSTRUMENTS ARE MERELY PRESSED AGAINST THEIR NUMB LIPS.
IT'S THE GAS...

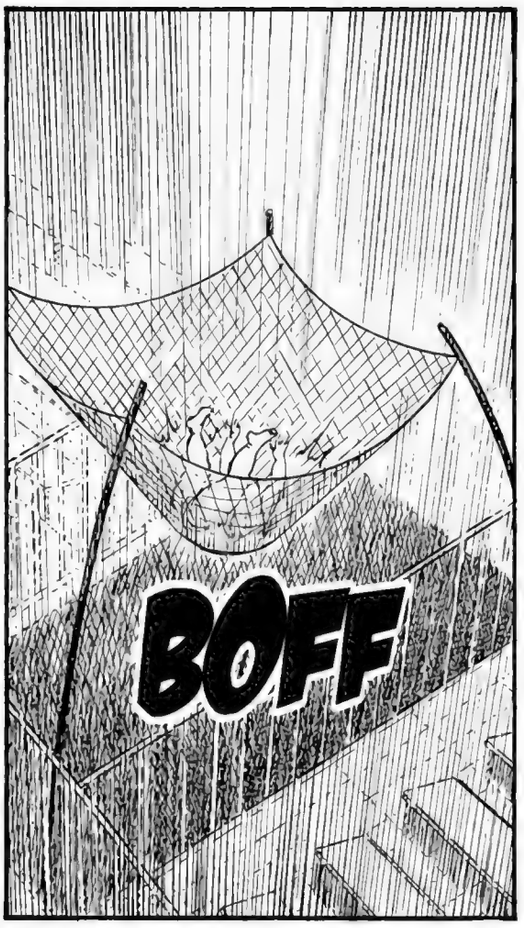

LOOK AT THE ACROBATS. THEY TOO FOLLOW THE RHYTHM OF THE GAS, WHETHER THEY WERE ONCE FISH OR HUMANS!
LOOK AT HOW THEY LEAP IN TIME TO THE MUSIC, LIKE LIFE FORMS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
HWEEOO-LO-LO-LO♫
♫
NOW WOULD YOU SAY IT?
WOULD YOU SAY THE GAS HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN?
PLEASE OB-SERVE.
YES... IT DID... I KNOW BECAUSE...
CONSIDER! WHERE DID THIS GAS COME FROM?
THIS GAS THAT IS IN ANIMALS AND PEOPLE, AND EVERYTHING, AND EVEN YOU? COULD IT HAVE COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD?

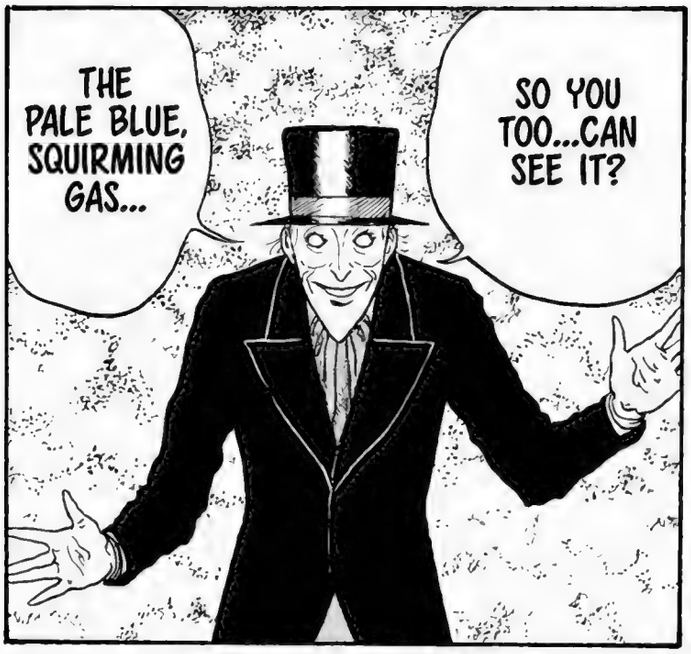
AND NOW...
...LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING MORE STIMU-LATING.
EVEN OUR TROUPE, WHO SOUGHT TO BAND TOGETHER, HAVE FALLEN PREY TO NATURAL SELECTION.
AND IT WILL STILL BE ALIVE WHEN ALL THE HUMANS AND ANIMALS ARE GONE.
...BECAUSE THE GAS IS ALIVE!
PREPARE TO SEE THE FORCE OF THE GAS!
BOOM-CHA
THE CITROUS CIRCUS COLOSSAL CANNON!
BOOM-CHA


THE OIL CANS BEHIND THE CANNON...
...HAVE BEEN PACKED WITH HUMANS INFECTED BY THE GAS.
TOGETHER THEY ARE BUILDING UP THE GAS PRESSURE.
NOW... WE ARE APPROACHING THE FATEFUL MOMENT.
SIX...
FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE ...
TWO...
ONE...
FIRE!!
BAM


BOOM
FYOOOOOOOOOOOO
THUMP

♫HWEEOO-LO-LO-LO-LO-LO-LO-LO♫

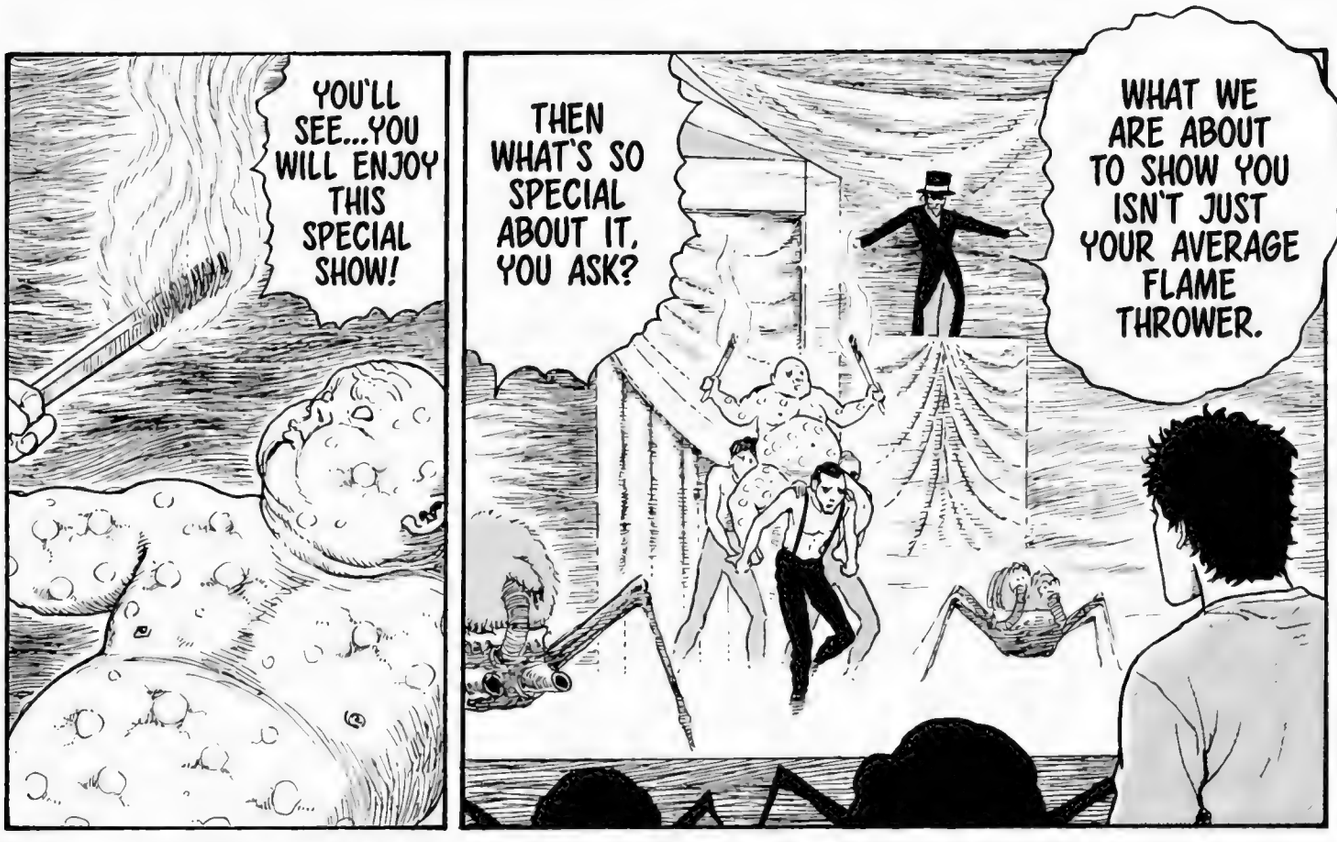

BOFF


THE PALE BLUE, SQUIRMING GAS...
SO YOU TOO...CAN SEE IT?

...I MUST SAY YOU'RE QUITE PERCEPTIVE ...
IF YOU DO SEE IT...

BOOM-CHA
IT'S MOVING AGAIN...
BOOM-CHA
...IT'S FOLLOWING THE MUSIC...
BOOM-CHA

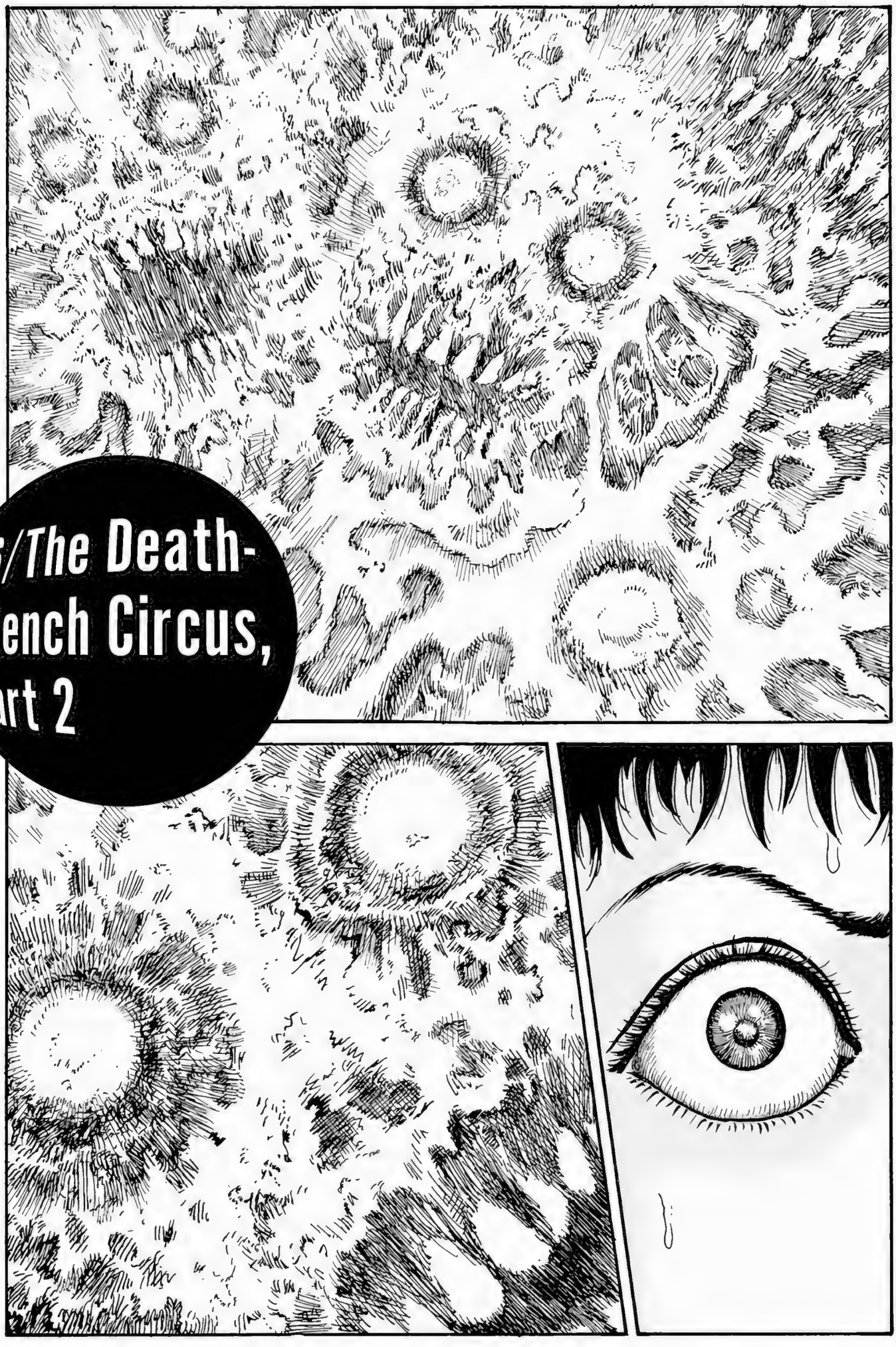
ONLY THOSE OF US WHO'VE SEEN ITS TRUE NATURE KNOW HOW TERRIFYING IT IS.
BUT I'M SURE YOU STILL CAN'T SEE WHAT LIES *UNDERNEATH.*
...THE CUSTOMER WILL ENJOY THIS SPECIAL SHOW!
WELL THEN...
PLEASE OBSERVE!
THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN FLAME THROWER!


YOU'LL SEE...YOU WILL ENJOY THIS SPECIAL SHOW!
THEN WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT, YOU ASK?
WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO SHOW YOU ISN'T JUST YOUR AVERAGE FLAME THROWER.

FWOOM

GHHOOOOOOOOOOO

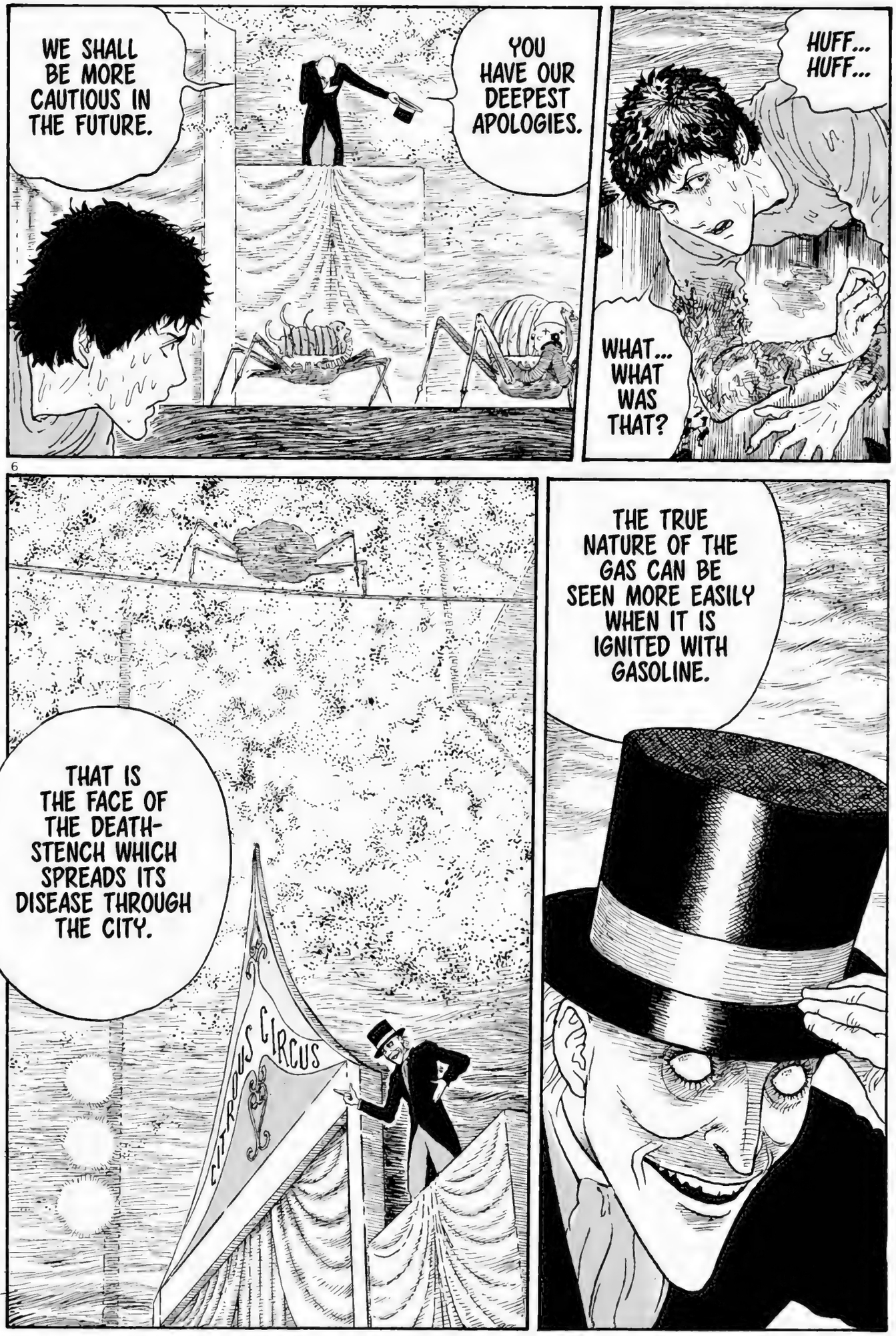
HOOOOOOOOOO
AAGHH!!

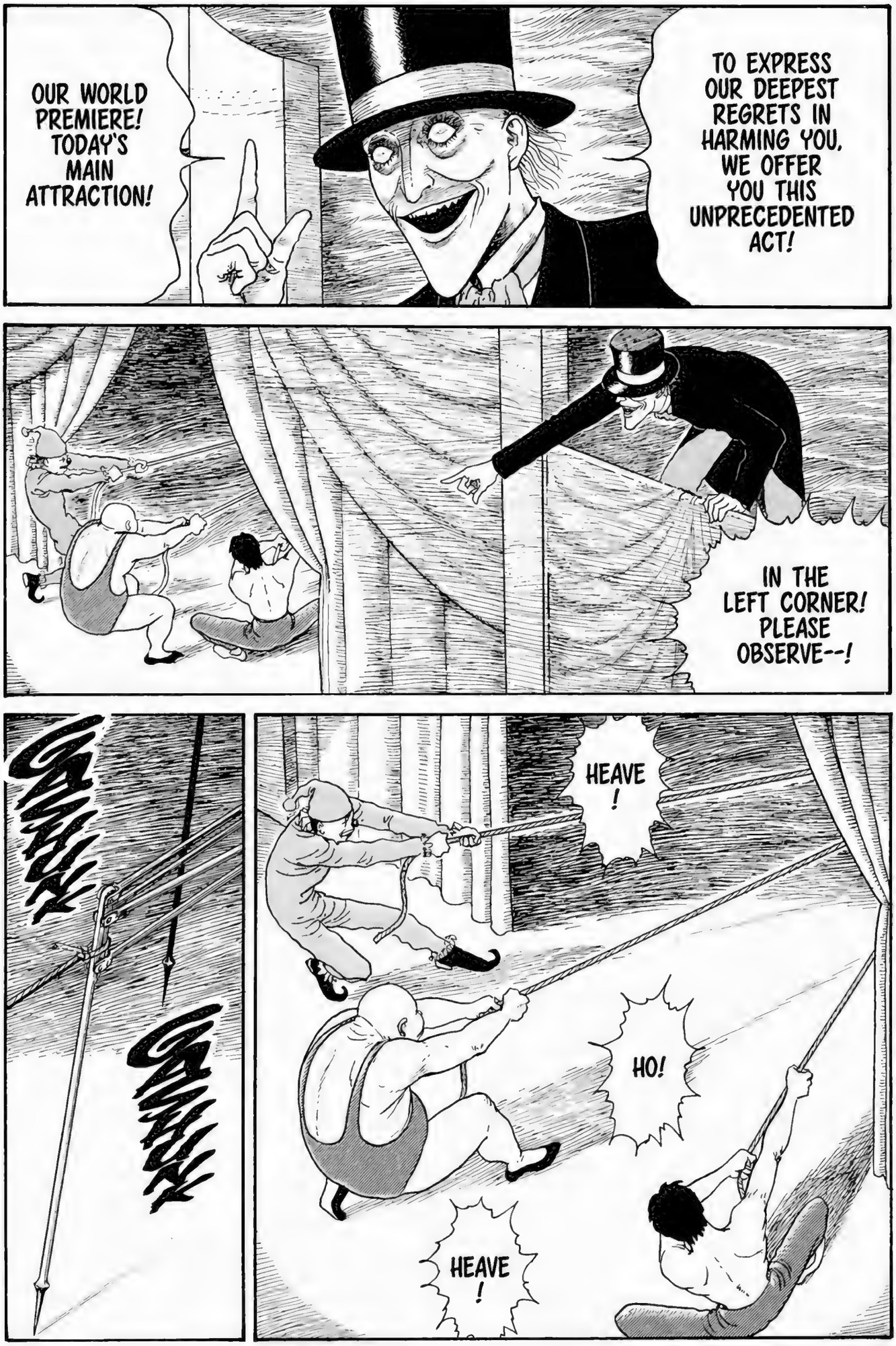

16/The Death-Stench Circus, Part 2

GWOOOOOO

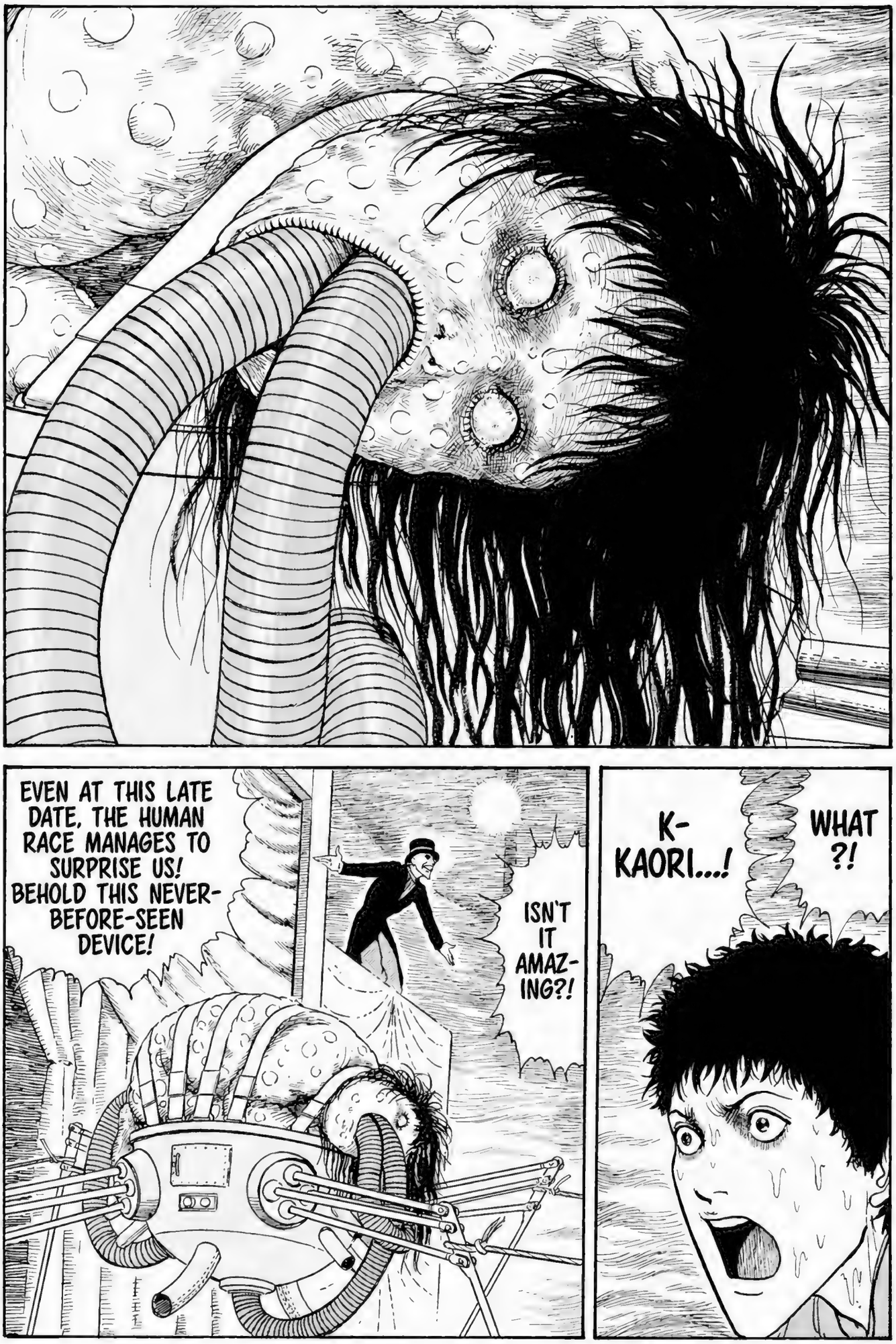
WOOOSH
ARGH
!!

KRACKLE
KRACKLE
AAAGH!
SOME-
BODY
HELP
ME--!
KRACKLE
KRACKLE
I'M ON
FIRE!
FWAP
FWAP
SPLASH


WE SHALL BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN THE FUTURE.
YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES.
HUFF... HUFF...
WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?
6
THAT IS THE FACE OF THE DEATH-STENCH WHICH SPREADS ITS DISEASE THROUGH THE CITY.
CITROUS CIRCUS
THE TRUE NATURE OF THE GAS CAN BE SEEN MORE EASILY WHEN IT IS IGNITED WITH GASOLINE.


OUR WORLD PREMIERE! TODAY'S MAIN ATTRACTION!
TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST REGRETS IN HARMING YOU, WE OFFER YOU THIS UNPRECEDENTED ACT!
IN THE LEFT CORNER! PLEASE OBSERVE--!
GWAAK
GWAAK
HEAVE !
HO!
HEAVE !

CHUK
CHUK
CHUK


EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE, THE HUMAN RACE MANAGES TO SURPRISE US! BEHOLD THIS NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN DEVICE!
ISN'T IT AMAZ-ING?!
K-KAORI...!
WHAT ?!

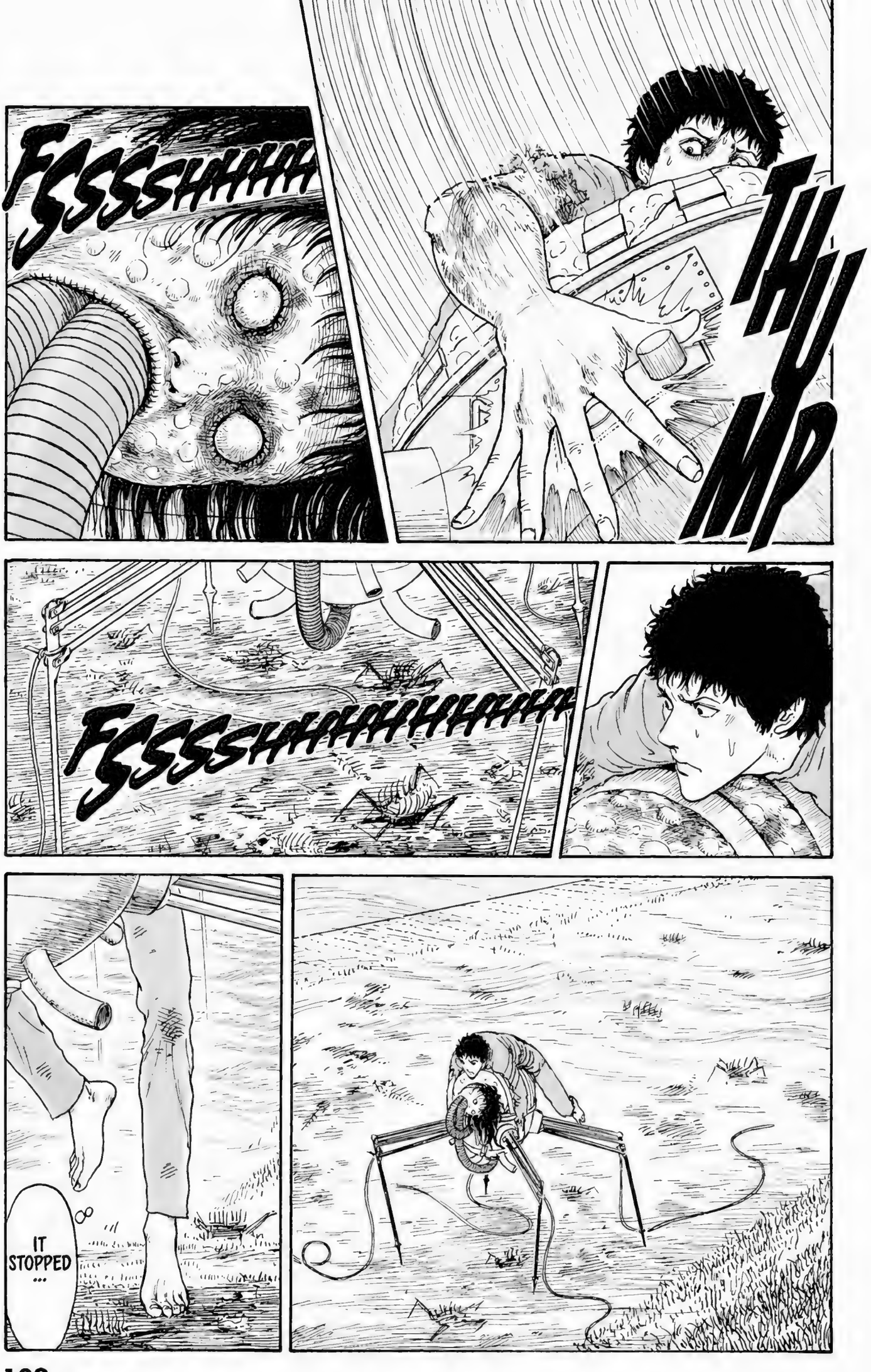
OBSERVE HOW IT LEAPS AND STRUGGLES, COMPLETELY OUT OF SYNC WITH THE MARCHING TUNE!!
UNLIKE THE SLIMY, RUSTED MACHINES FROM THE SEA, IT IS CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY OF STAINLESS STEEL! AND ITS DESIGN-- SLEEK, FUTURISTIC!
QUIET DOWN!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
STOP IT!
S-
LASH!
LASH!

GWI
FSSSSHHHHH
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
SPLAT
GYAAG!
SPLAT
WAAGH!
SPLAT

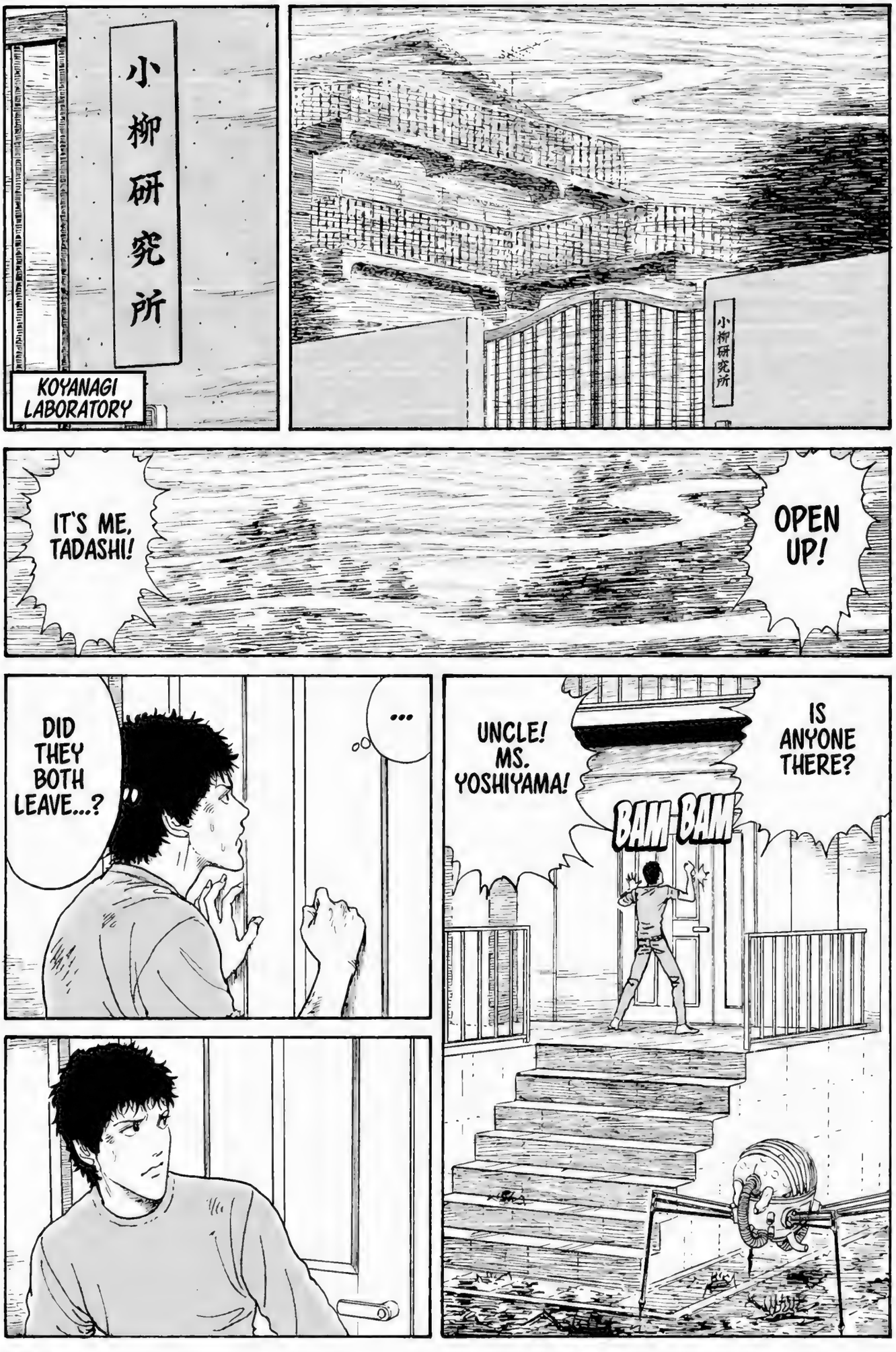
WE'LL BE INFECTED!
AIEE!
IT JUST SHOT OUT FROM ITS EXHAUST VALVE!
AAGGH! WHAT IS THIS?
HEY, IT'S GETTING AWAY!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
RRRIP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? AFTER IT!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
WATER... WE NEED WATER!

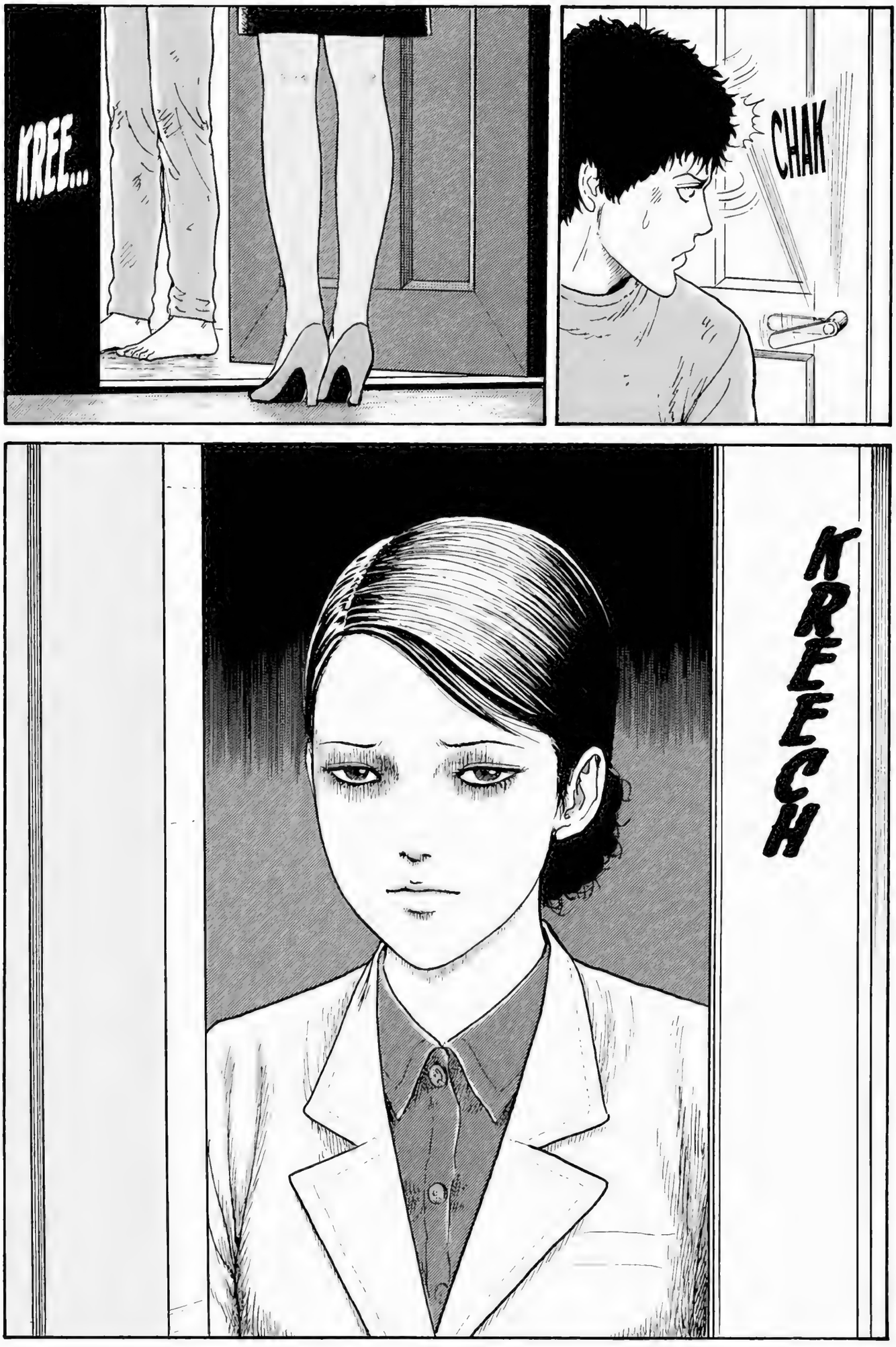
WAIT, KAORI!!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
KAORI!!
GASHUNK
NP

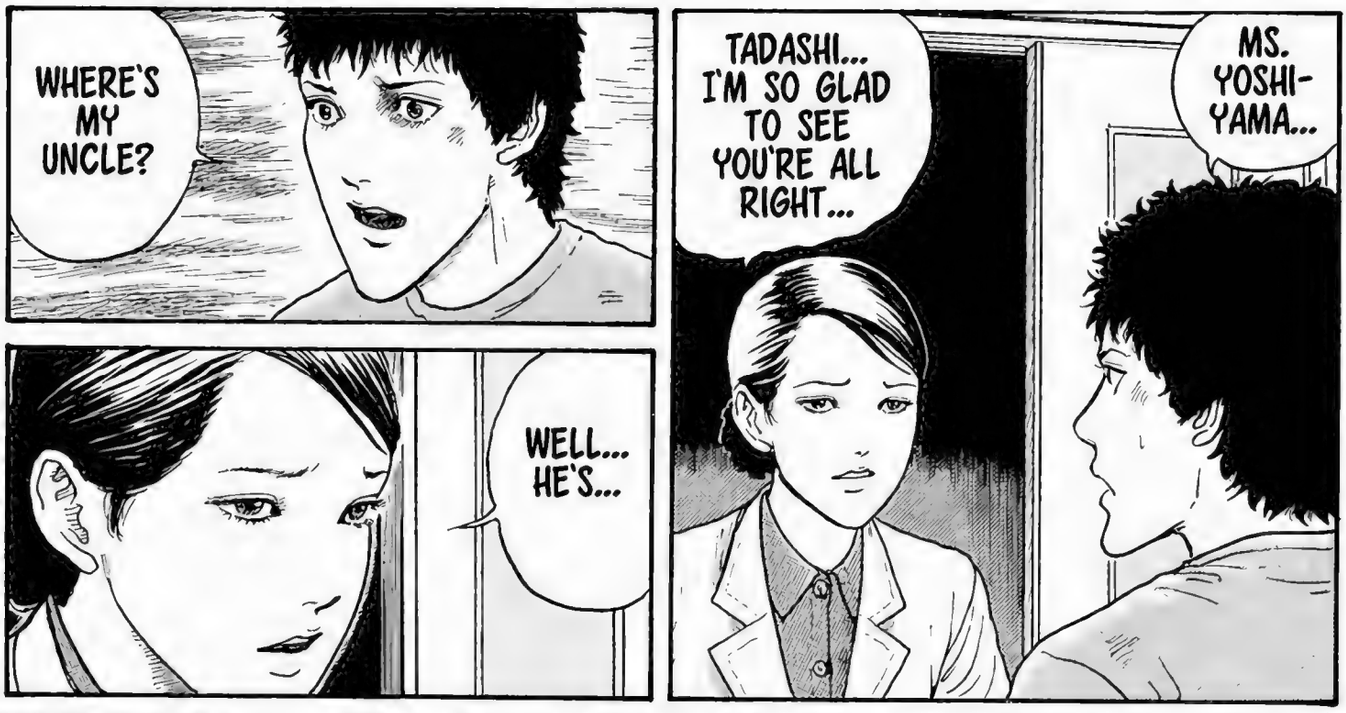
ARGH!!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GFF!
...WHERE'S THE SWITCH!?
THE SWITCH ...
HERE!


FSSSHHHHH
THUMP
FSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
IT STOPPED ...

KAORI...
...NO...I SHOULDN'T TRY TO DO IT MYSELF...
...I'LL TAKE HER BACK TO THE LAB...
KAORI...
...I'LL FREE YOU SOON...
KRR KRR KRR


小柳研究所
KOYANAGI LABORATORY
小柳研究所
IT'S ME, TADASHI!
OPEN UP!
DID THEY BOTH LEAVE...?
...
UNCLE! MS. YOSHIYAMA!
IS ANYONE THERE?
BAM-BAM

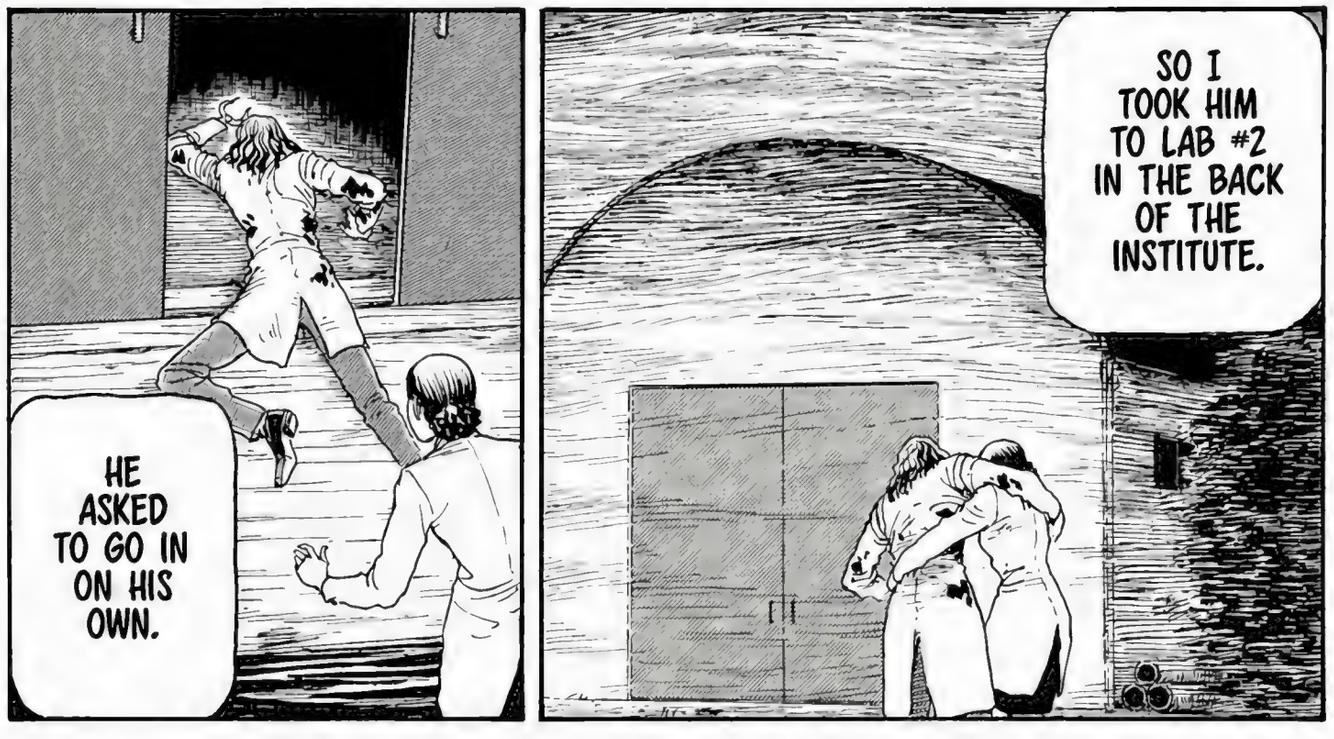

KREE...
CHAK
KREECH


WHERE'S MY UNCLE?
WELL... HE'S...
TADASHI... I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
MS. YOSHI-YAMA...

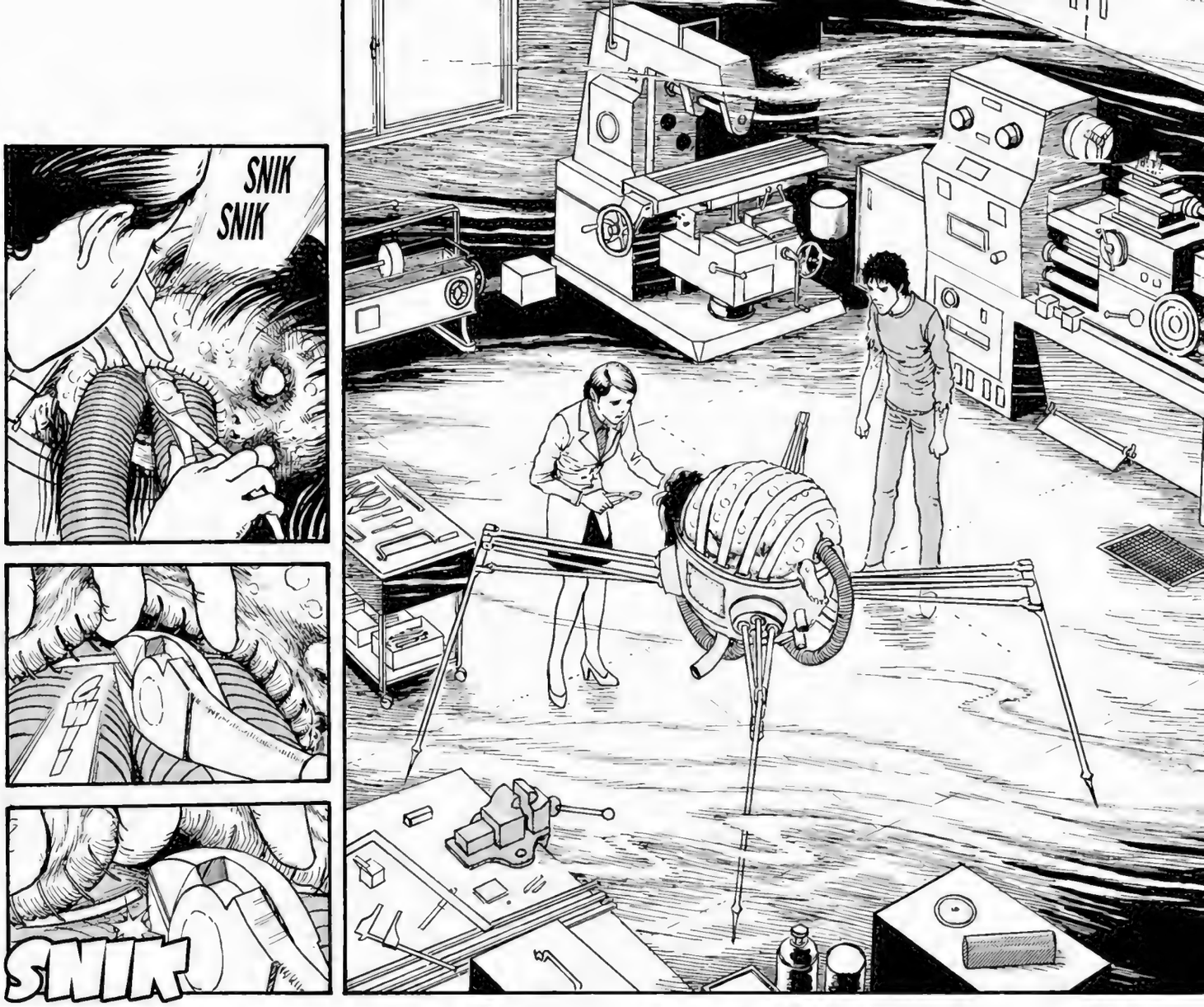
SOB...
SNIFF...
17/The Death-Stench of Lab #2

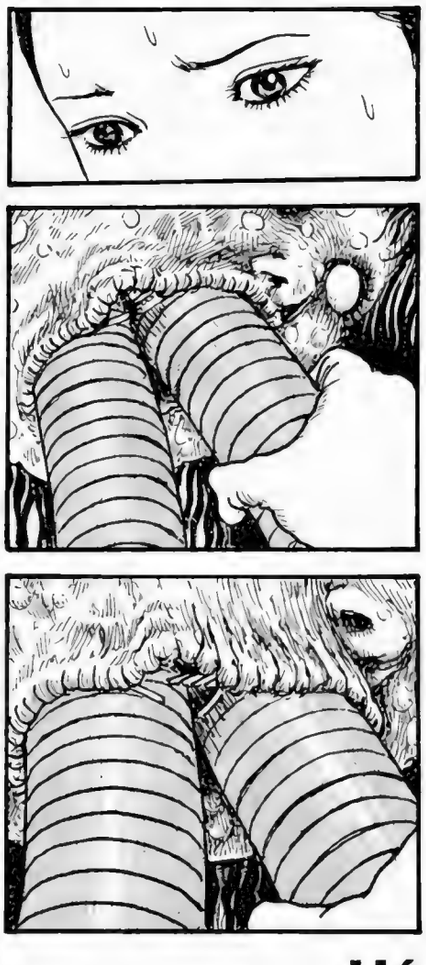
DOCTOR KOYANAGI ...
...DIED FROM THE STAB WOUND FROM KAORI'S MACHINE.
DOCTOR... I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL!
IT'S... TOO LATE.

IF... IF I'M GOING TO DIE...
...I WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY... IN MY LAB.
PLEASE TAKE ME TO LAB #2.

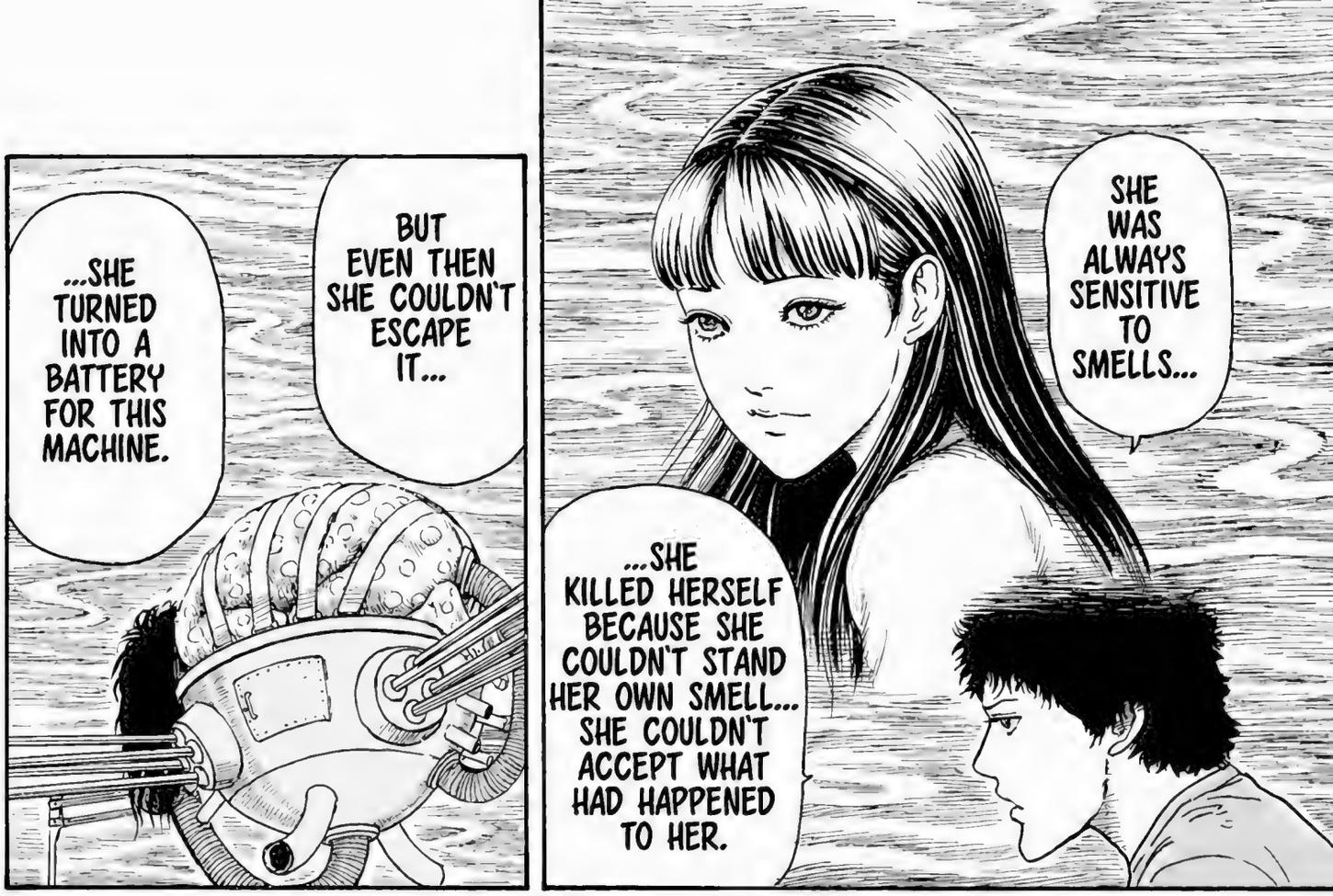

SO I TOOK HIM TO LAB #2 IN THE BACK OF THE INSTITUTE.
HE ASKED TO GO IN ON HIS OWN.

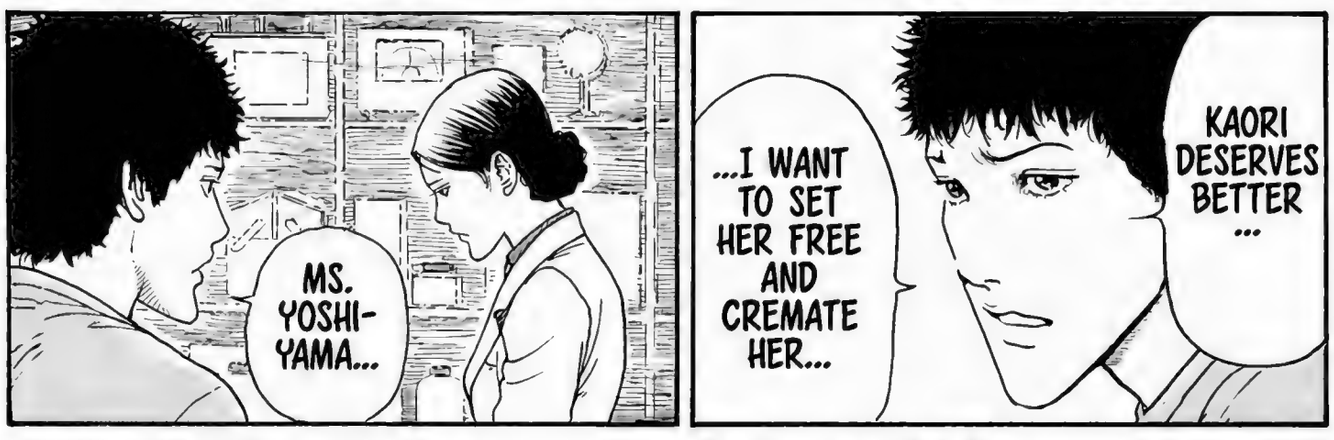
HE WANTED TO DIE WHERE HE WORKED...
...LIKE HIS FATHER WHO DIED IN HIS FACTORY...
...
THEN HE CLOSED THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE.
MS. YOSHI-YAMA...
...I NEED YOU TO HELP ME...
CAN YOU GET KAORI OUT OF HIS MACHINE?
SHE MAY HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS... SHE MAY BE PARALYZED...
...BUT I CAN'T LET HER BODY SCUTTLE AROUND ON THAT THING.
I'M SO SORRY, TADASHI... I HELPED BUILD IT...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT RIGHT NOW.


SNIK
SNIK
SNIK



BZZZZZZZ
I-I'M SO SORRY.
KAORI IS...
...
I KNOW ...
I KNOW SHE'S DEAD...
...AND THAT HER BODY'S ALREADY DECAYING.
BUT I STILL WANT HER FREE...
NOT MOVING AROUND AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.


SHE WAS ALWAYS SENSITIVE TO SMELLS...
...SHE KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T STAND HER OWN SMELL... SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER.
BUT EVEN THEN SHE COULDN'T ESCAPE IT...
...SHE TURNED INTO A BATTERY FOR THIS MACHINE.


KAORI DESERVES BETTER ...
...I WANT TO SET HER FREE AND CREMATE HER...
MS. YOSHI-YAMA...

...LET'S CREMATE UNCLE KOYANAGI, TOO.
I KNOW YOU LOVED HIM.
I KNOW HOW HE WAS. HE WAS OBSESSED WITH HIS WORK, SO I KNOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM COULD ONLY BE PROFESSIONAL, BUT...
Y-Y...
YES... YES.

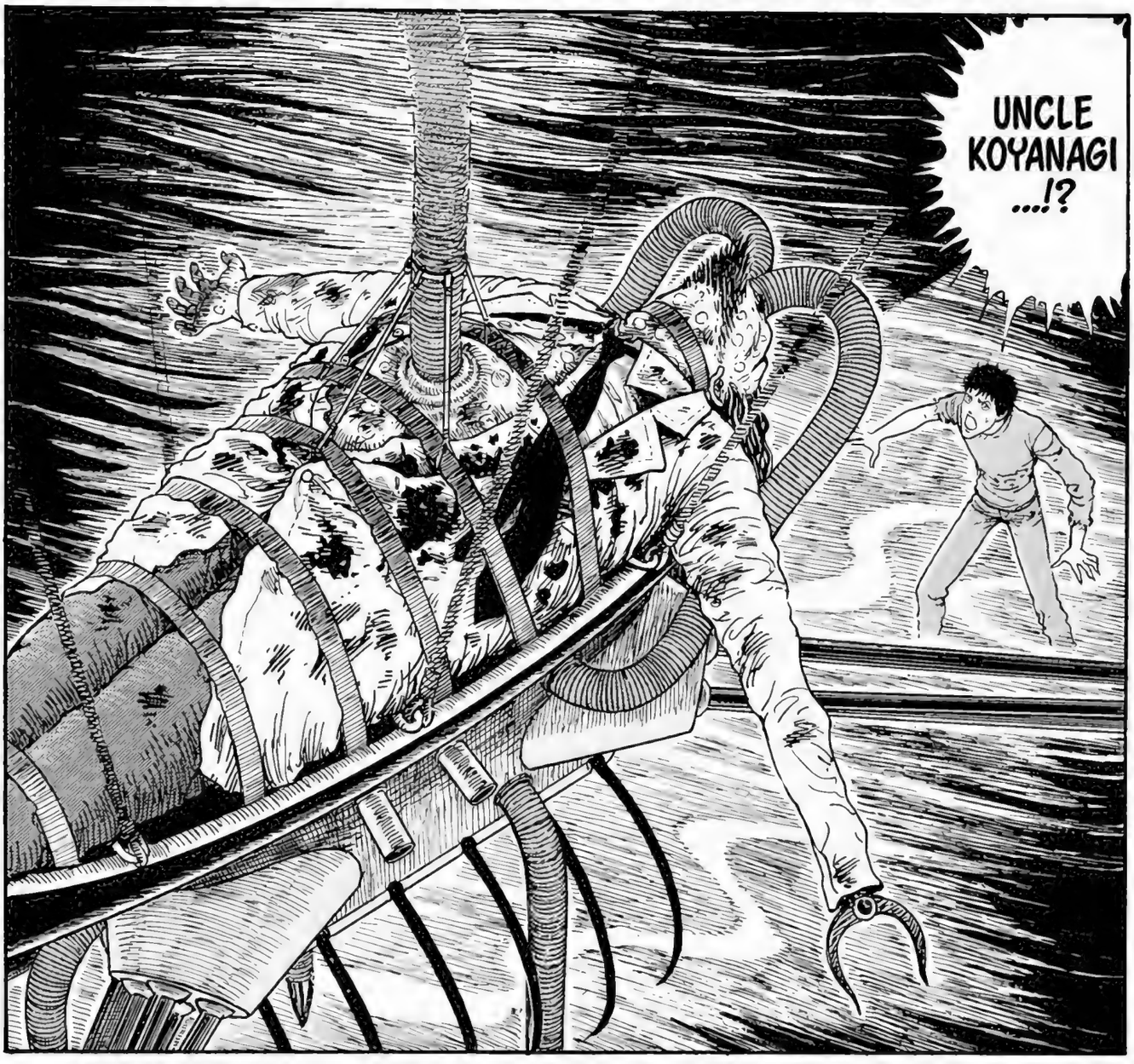
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
...IT'S COMING FROM LAB #2...
IT'S COMING FROM THE BACK ...
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
WHAT IS THAT?
GONN...
GONN...
LAB...
...#2?

IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE.
GONN...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
THAT WOUND WAS FATAL...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
GONN...
I WONDER... DO YOU THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE?
THE BUILDING'S COMPLETELY SEALED.
GONN...
MAYBE... BUT HOW DID THEY GET IN?
GONN...
GONN...
THEN MAYBE THE WALKING FISH GOT IN THERE.

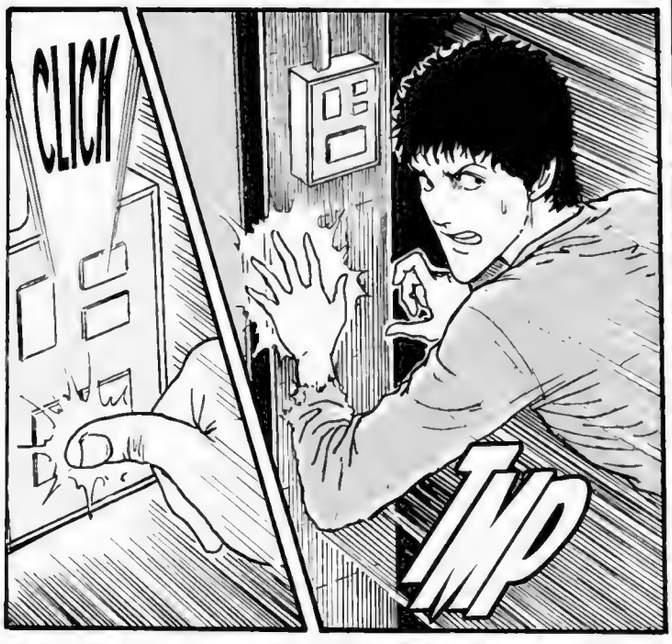
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IN THROUGH THAT WINDOW.
CRASH
IF IT'S THE WALKING FISH...
...WE'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF THEM.
THP

GONN...
GONN...
IT'S PITCH BLACK...
GONN...
GONN...
GONN...
HP

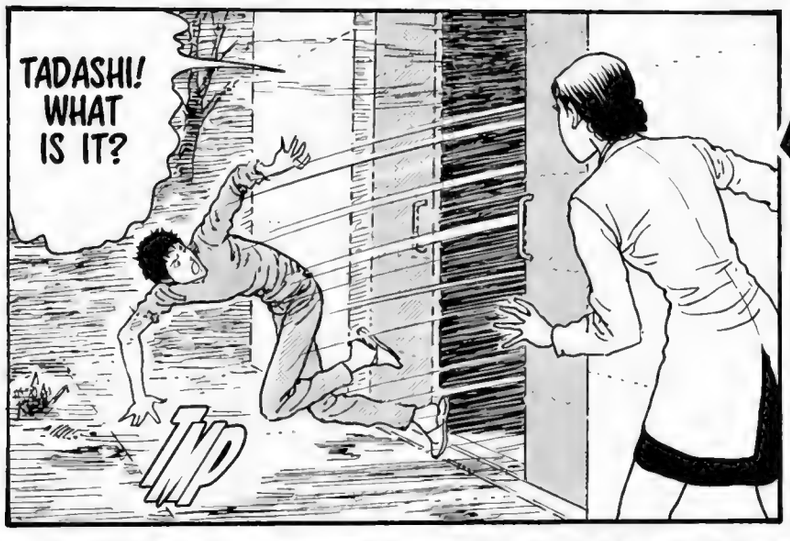
TADASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GONN!
!!


UNCLE KOYANAGI ...!?

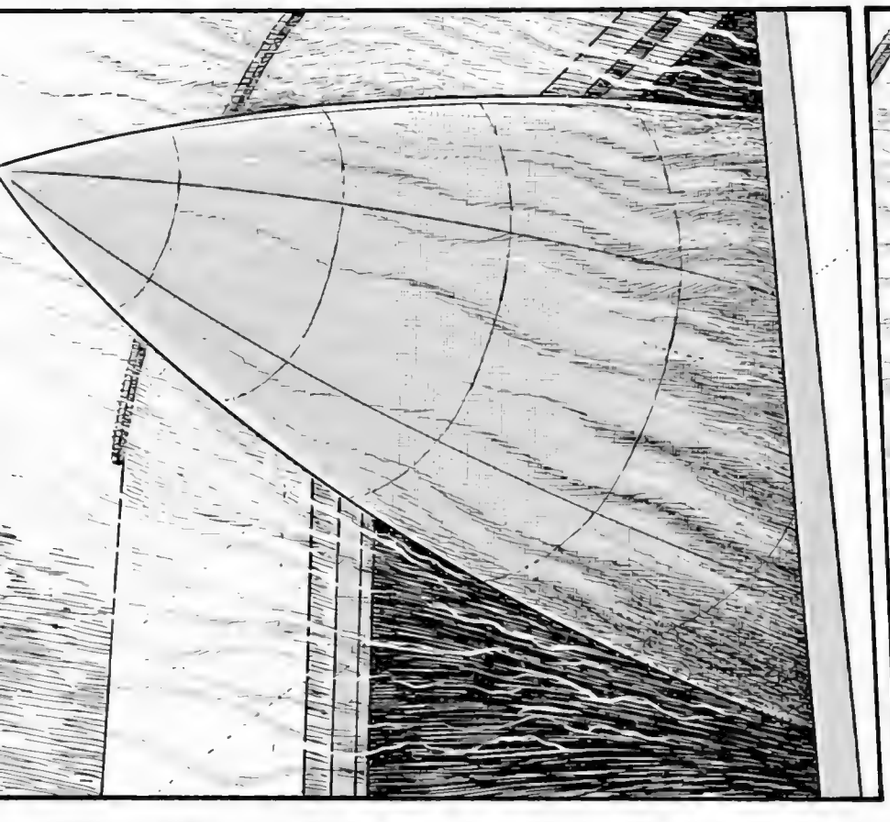
FSSSHHHHHHHHHH
GOHH...
FSSSHHHHHHHH
!!

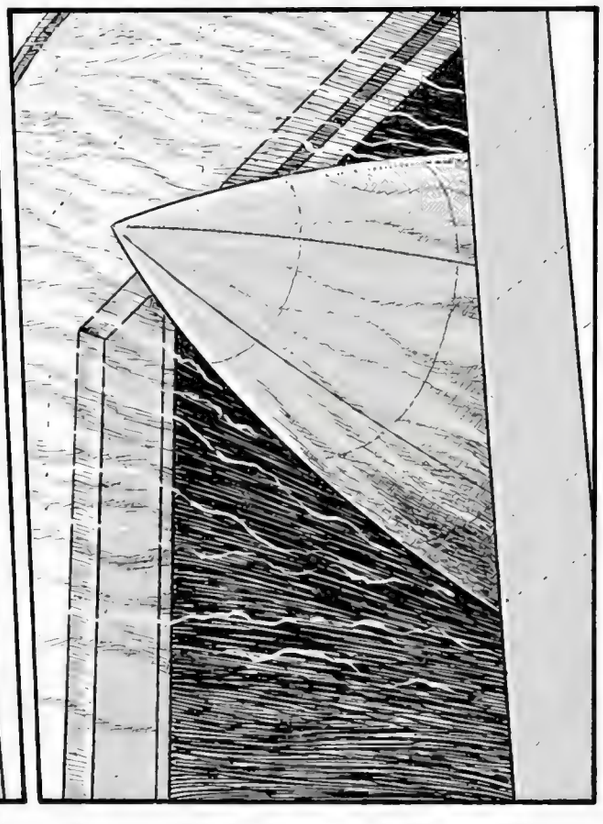

CLICK
TAP

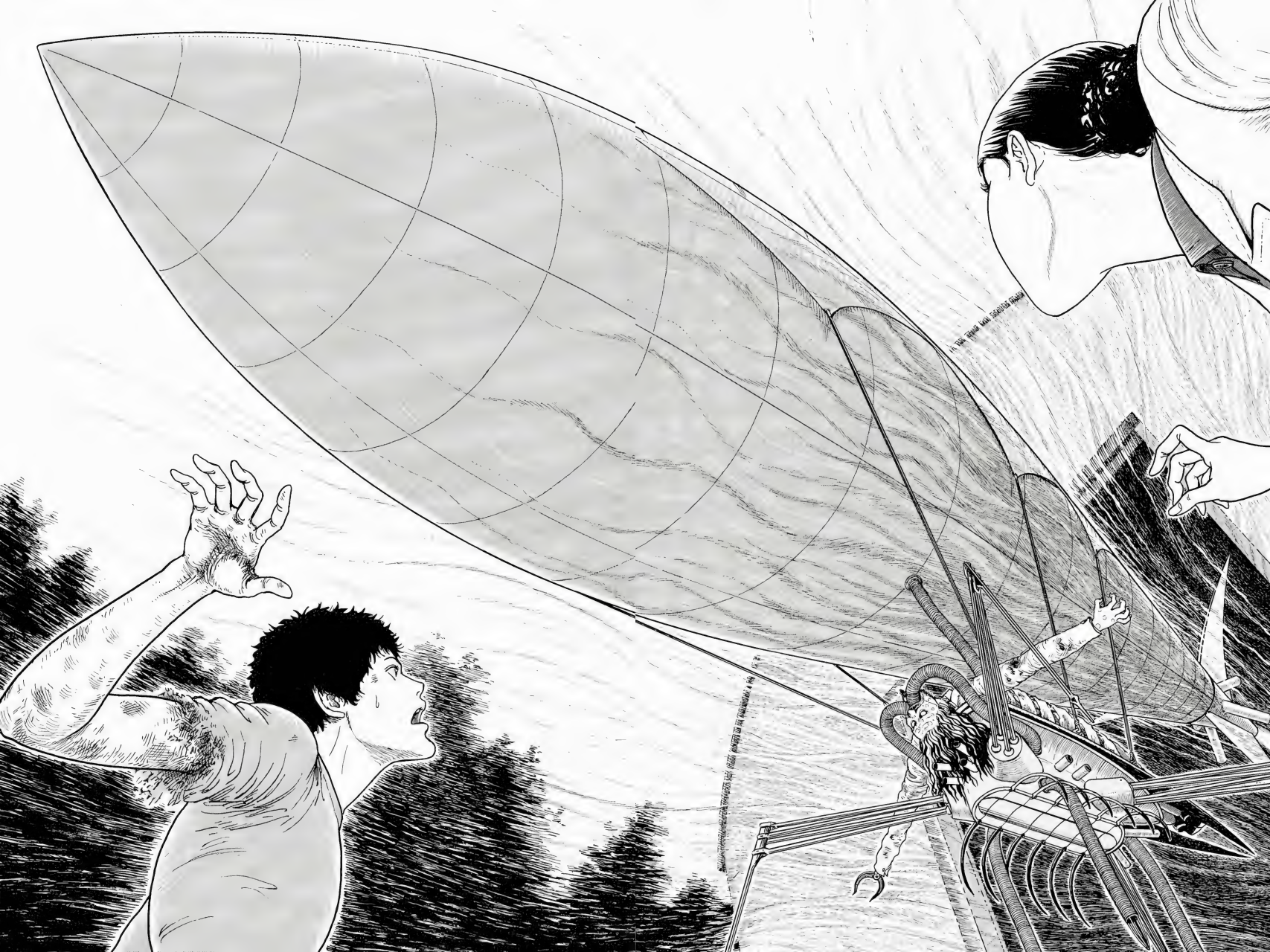
AAGH!


TADASHI! WHAT IS IT?
TAP

WEEEEEEEN







FSSSS
D-
DOCTOR
!?

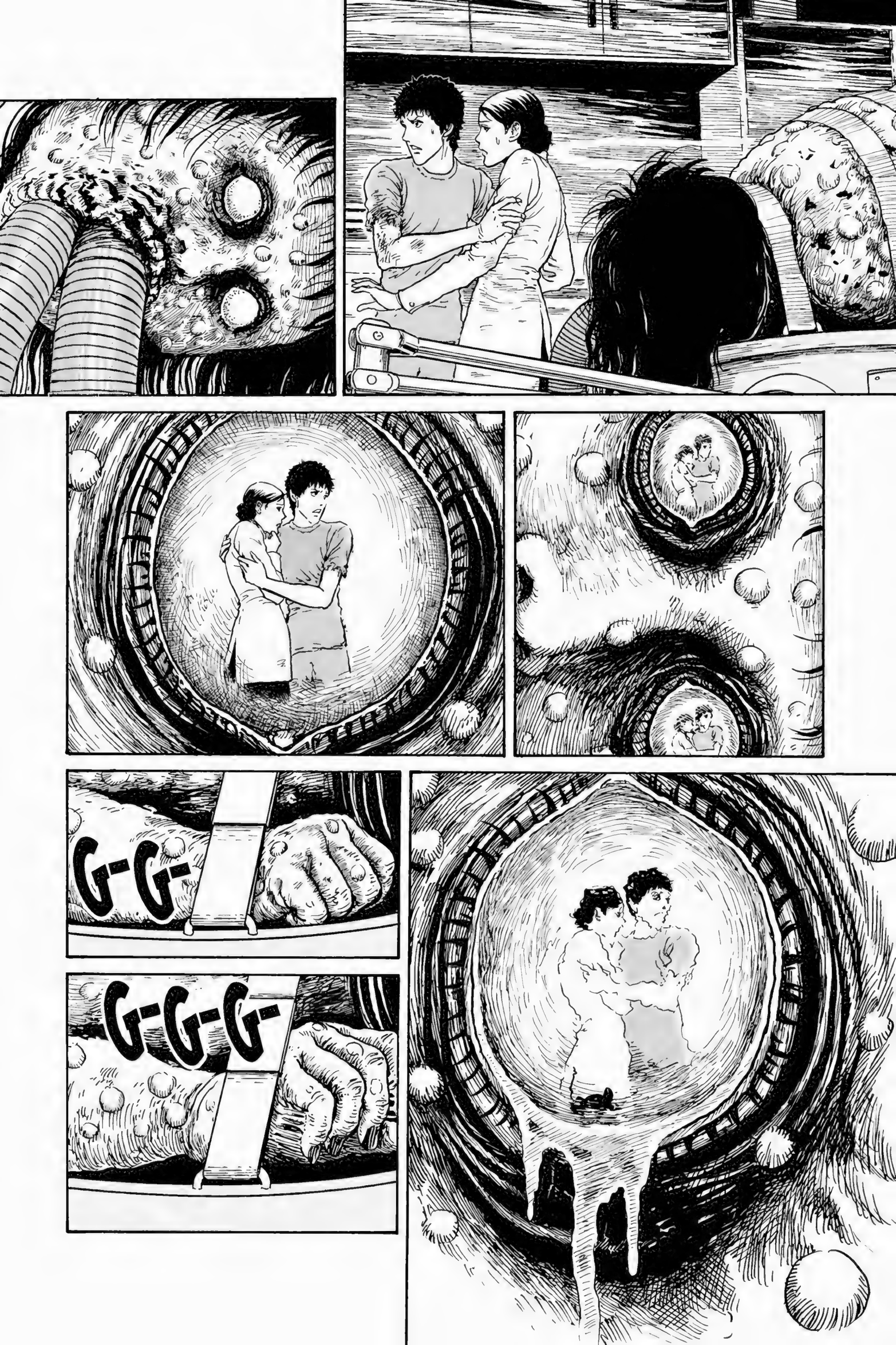
GIIII
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
18/The Death-Stench Air Raid

SPLAT
EEEYAA!
SPLAT
WAAGH!
HE'S TRYING TO HIT US! RUN!
DOOM
DOOM
SPLAT
THP THP

SPLAT
HUFF HUFF...
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SLAM
HE BUILT A FLYING ONE?!
DON'T TELL ME HE BUILT THAT, TOO!
WHAT'S THAT MACHINE ?
WH- WHAT WAS THAT?
BECAUSE... I DIDN'T THINK HE'D ACTUALLY BECOME PART OF IT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER !?
HE BUILT TWO MACHINES.
YES... HE DID.

WHY WOULD HE...?
GONK!
HE'S DEFINITELY AFTER US...
GONK!
GONK!
GONK!
TH-THAT'S ABSURD!!
COULD IT BE... HE'S ENVIOUS THAT WE'RE NOT INFECTED? OR JEALOUS THAT WE'RE TOGETHER...?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE GERM AND NOT THE DOCTOR THAT'S MAKING THE MACHINE MOVE!
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE CONSCIOUS!
GONK!
GONK!

AH!
SMASH
...WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?
D-DOCTOR ...
HE'S NOT HIMSELF ANYMORE!!
THAT'S ENOUGH, MS. YOSHI-YAMA.
THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US. PLEASE CALM DOWN, SIR...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

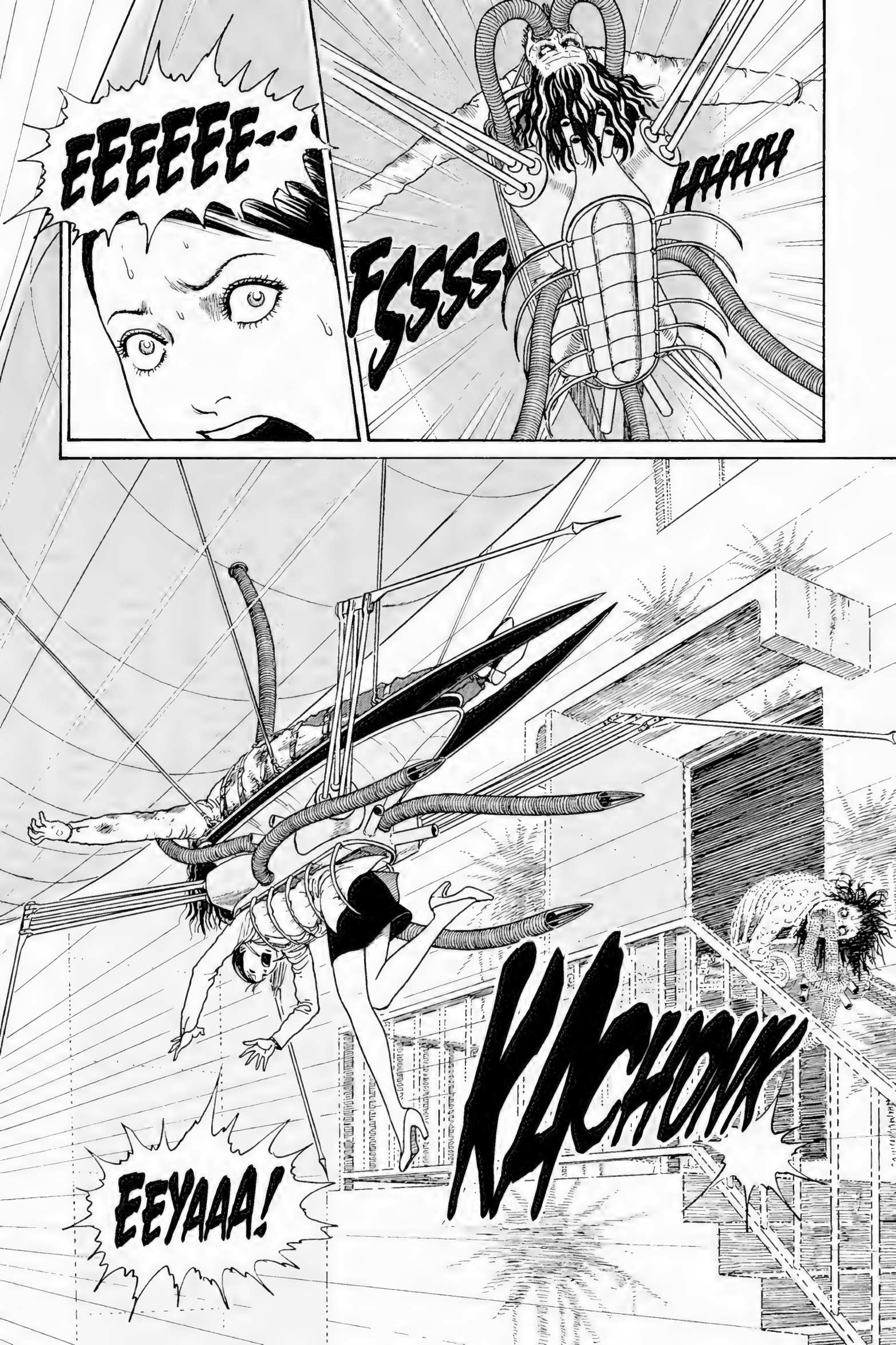

G-G-
G-G-G-

G-G-G-
G-G-G-
G-G-G-
KLIK
FP
PLUP
GRRRR
GONN...
GONN...

GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
WHAT !?
!?
FSSSSHHHHH
I TURNED IT OFF!
WHY'S SHE MOVING ?
FSSSSHHHHH
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
AIEEE!!
AH!?

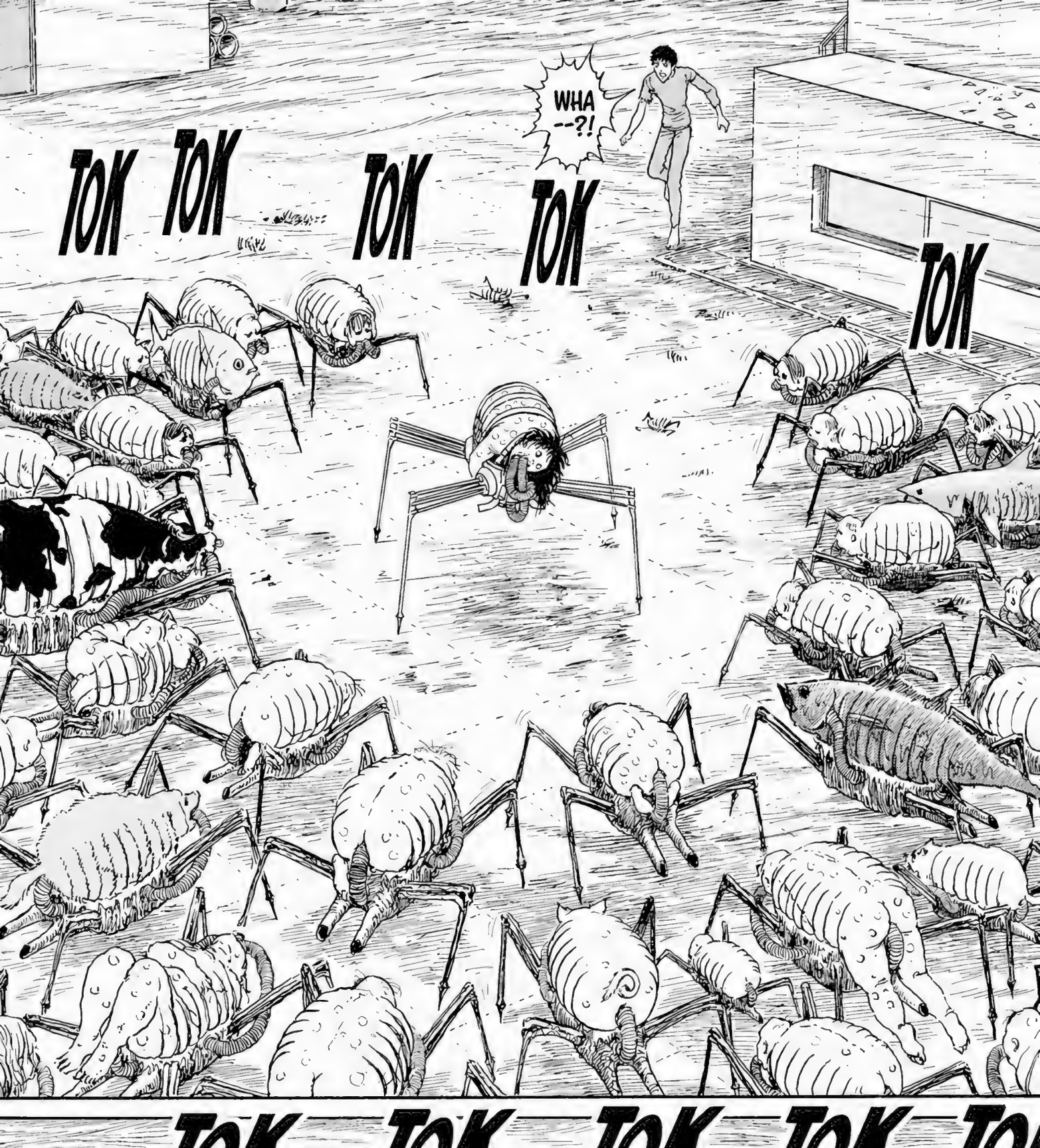
GASHUNK GASHUNK BUMP
AIEE!
AAGH!
KAORI!! STOP IT!!
GASHUNK
WF FF
RUN, MS. YOSHI-YAMA!
!!
GASHUNK
GASHUNK

GWOOOOOOO


EEEEEE--
FSSSS
HHHHH
EEYAAA!
KKCHOK

MS. YOSHI-YAMA!?
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
NO... NO...

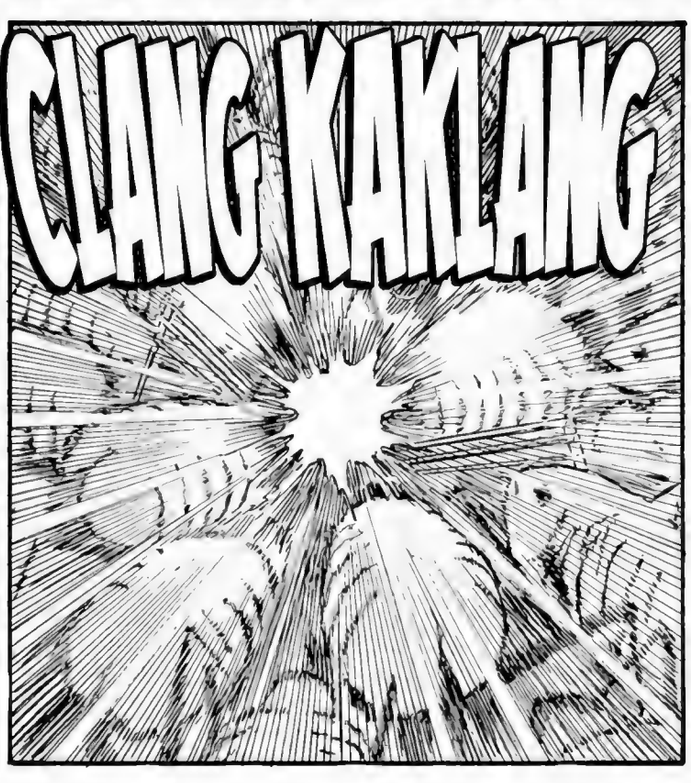
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK GASHUNK
...
FFooo
GASHUNK
TOK
TOK TOK TOK
?
TOK
TOK
TOK TOK
TOK
TOK


TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
WHA
--?!
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK

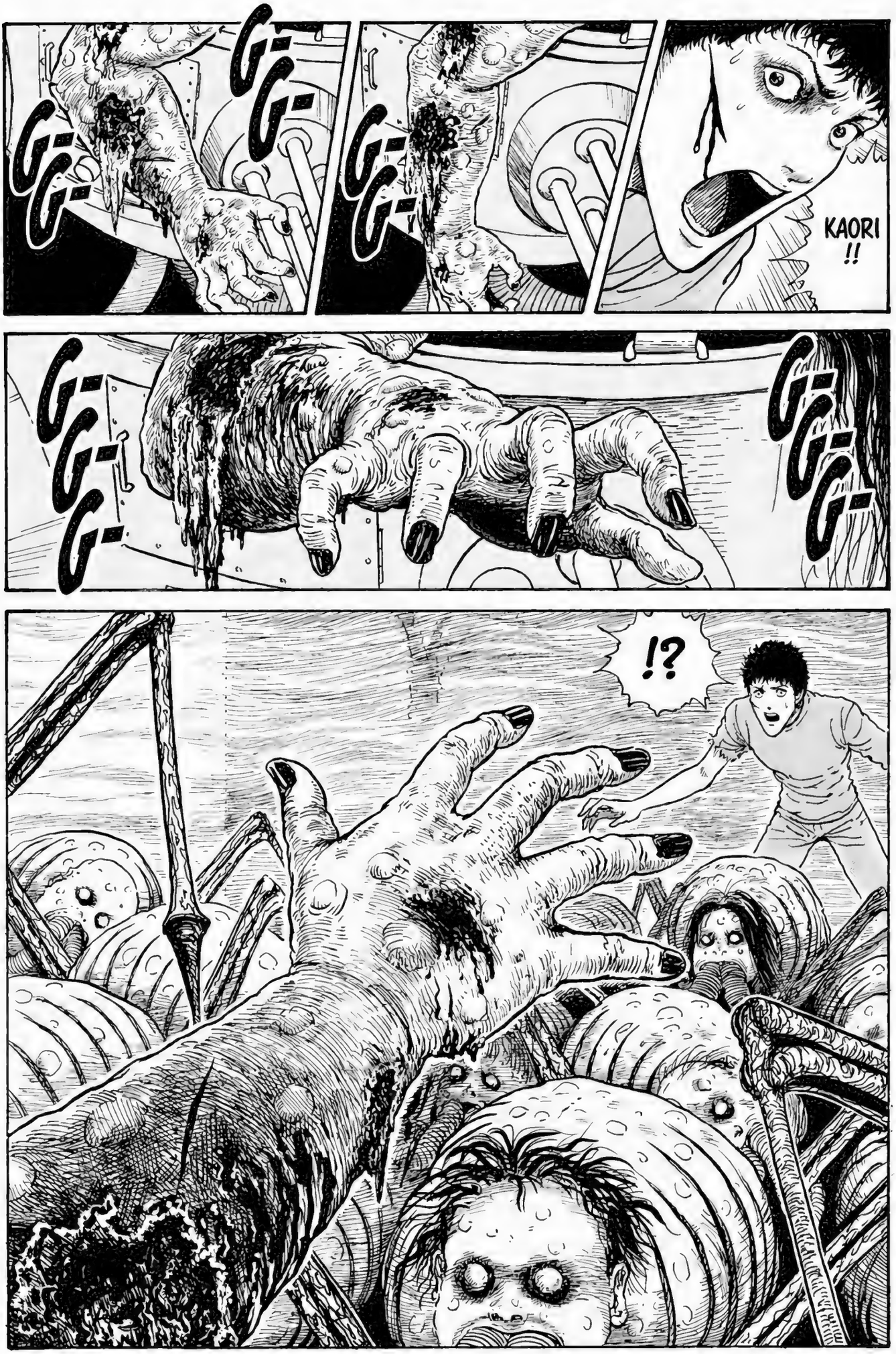
GASHUNK
KAORI
...
T-TOK
T-TOK
GASHUNK
GASHUNK
GA SHIII
...WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WH...

BRRRUUSSHHHH

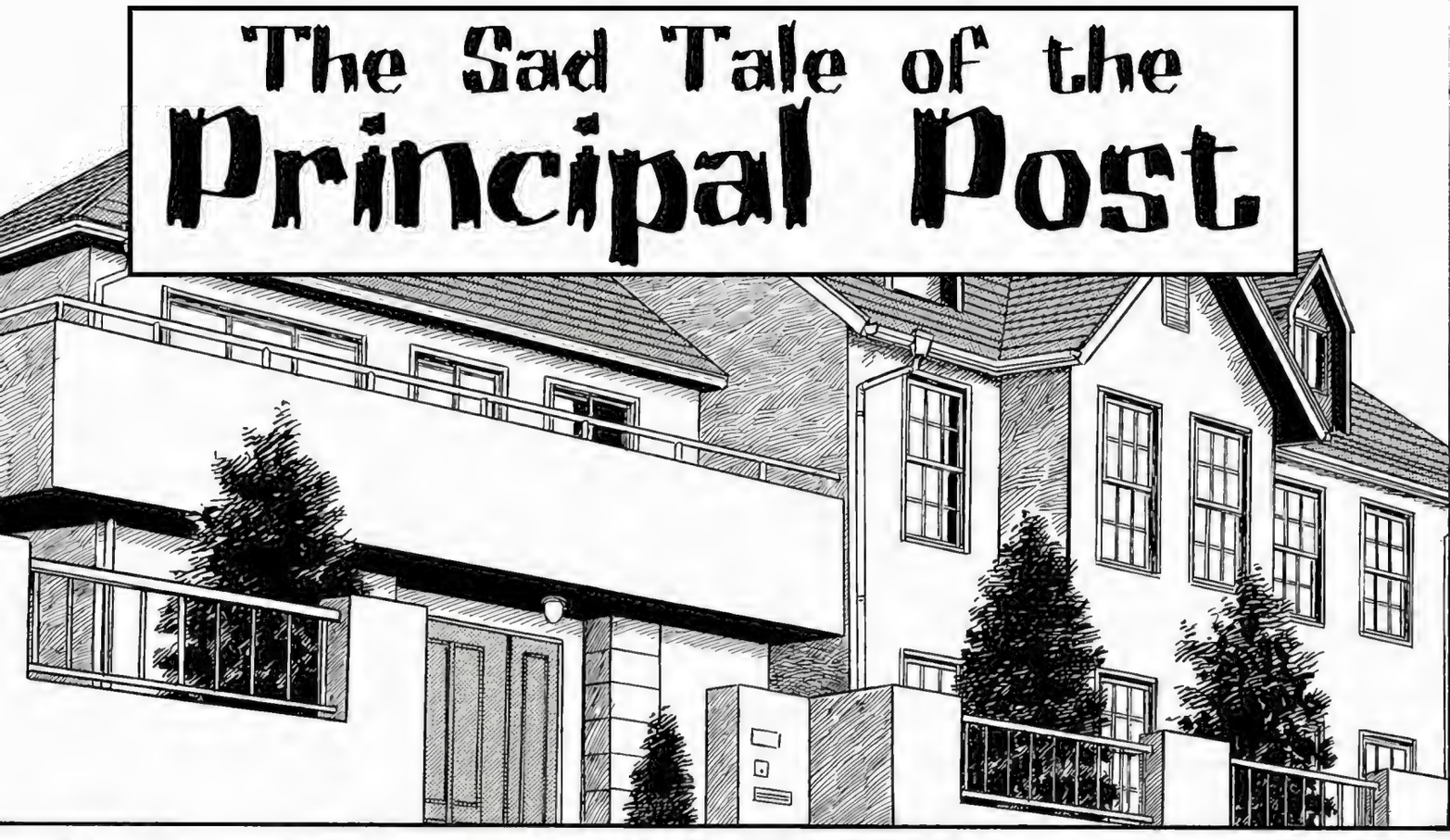
BAFF BAFF

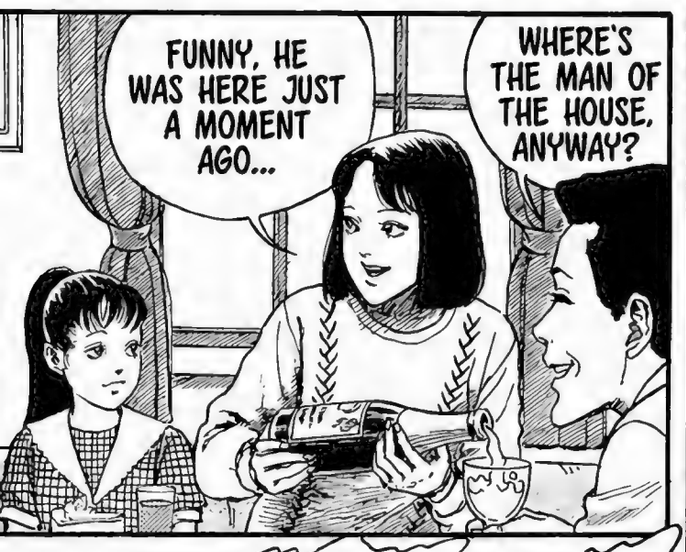

CLANG KAKLANG

FWAK
AGGH!
GASHUNK GASHUNK
STOP IT!! LEAVE HER ALONE!!
KAORI !!
URR...
PSSHOOOO
SPLAT
KAKLANG
SPLAT
SSHHH


KAORI
!!
!?

The Sad Tale of the Principal Post



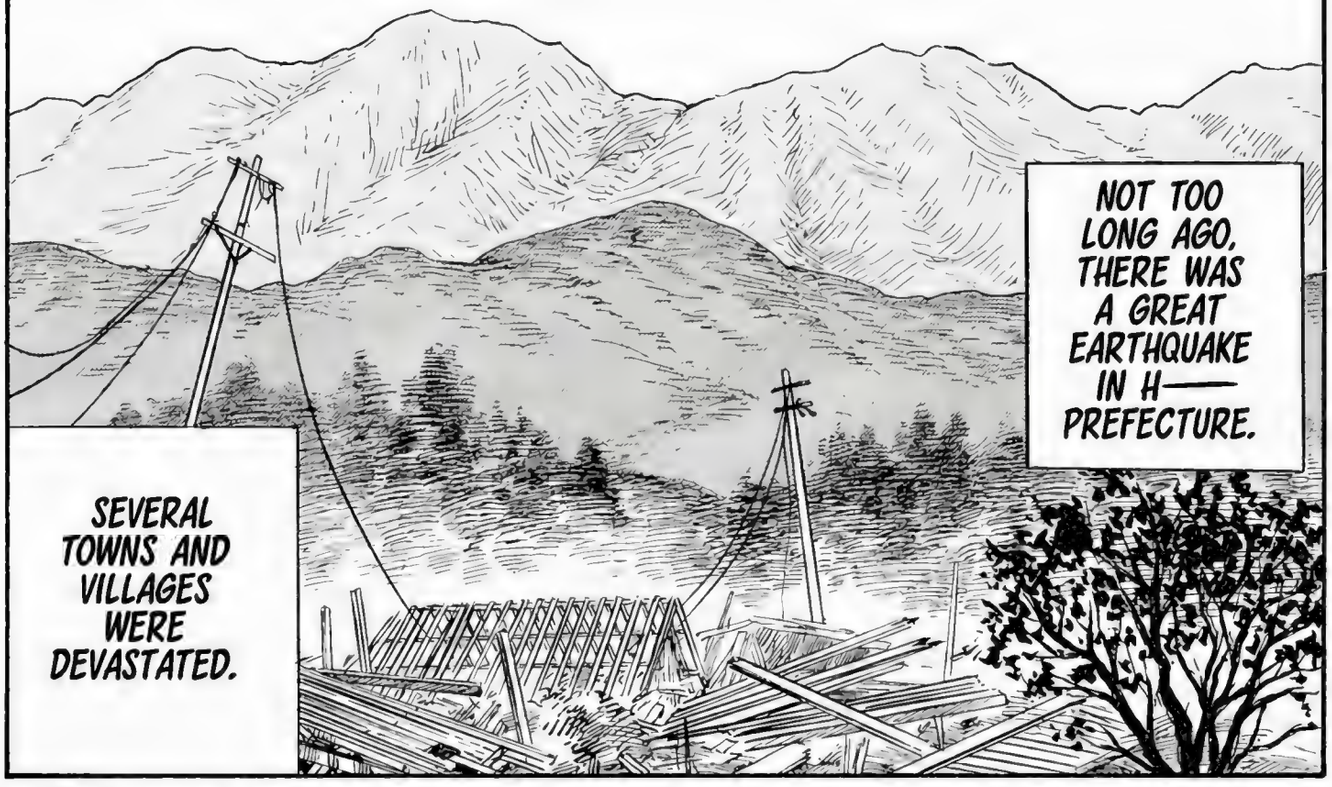


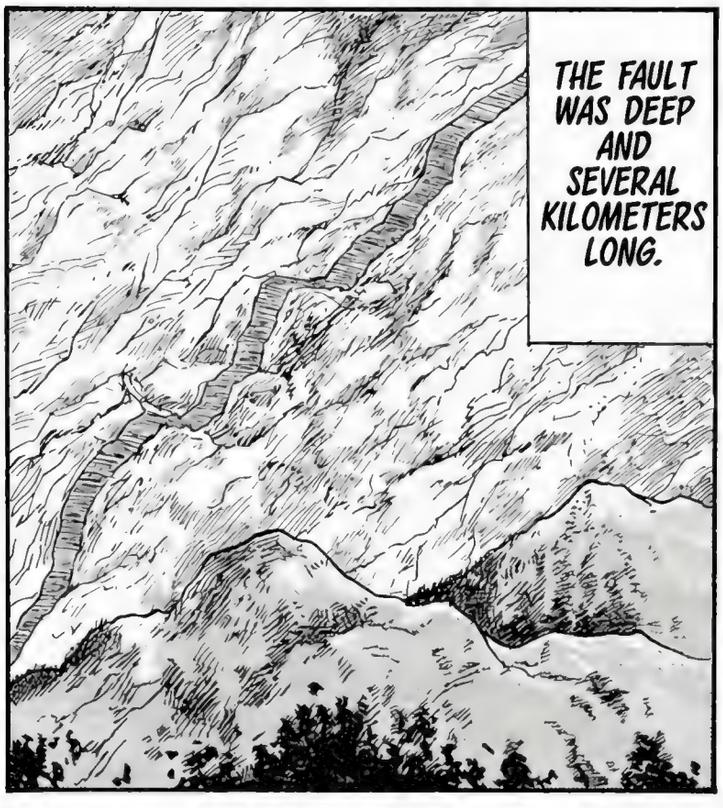
HELLLP!
DEAR?
HONEY, WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU!?
HELLLP!
I'M DOWN HERE!
I'M IN THE CRAWL SPACE! HELP ME...
LET'S GO HELP HIM!
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO DAD IN THE CRAWL SPACE.
DEAR, WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHERE'VE YOU GOTTEN TO?
AH!

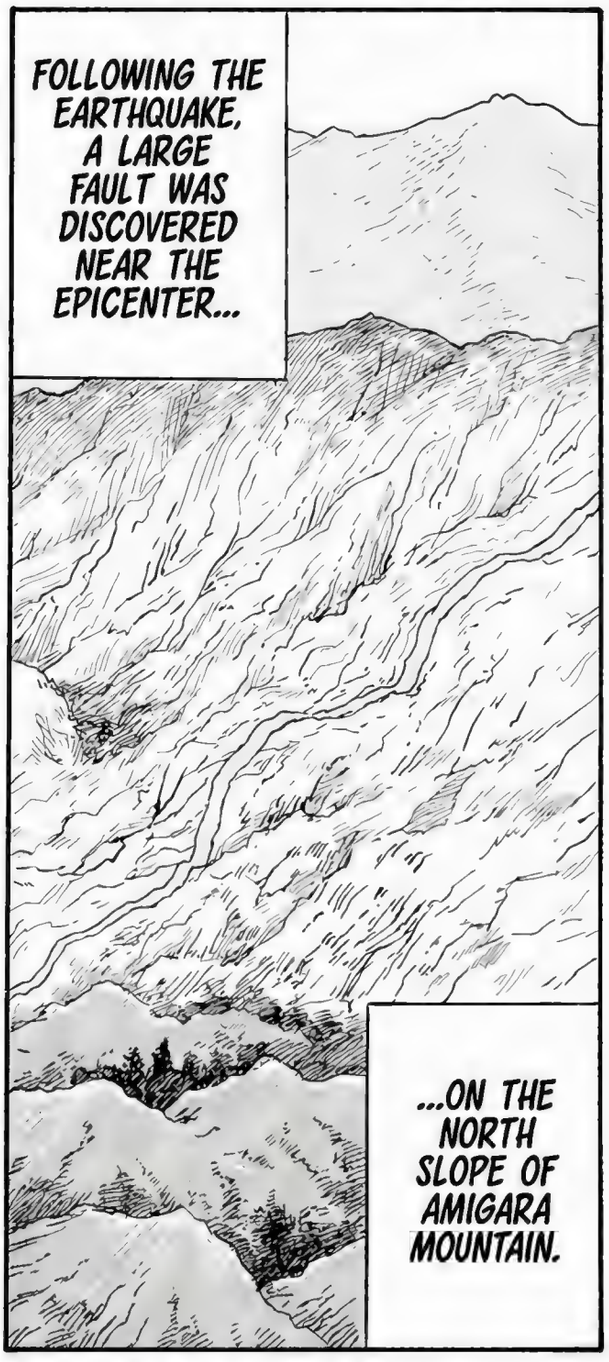
G-UGGH...
LOOKS LIKE I'M BEING CRUSHED BY THE POST...
D-DEAR... WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED!?
N-NO... WAIT...
THIS IS TERRIBLE... I'LL CALL THE CARPENTER!!
GG...IT'S A LONG STORY...
B-BUT HOW!? HOW DID YOU GET UNDER THERE? THE WEIGHT OF THE WHOLE HOUSE IS ON TOP OF YOU!
THEN...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WE SHOULD DO!?
...IF YOU MOVE IT JUST TO RESCUE ME, THE ENTIRE HOUSE MIGHT FALL OVER.
I MEAN, WHAT A SHAME! OUR BRAND NEW HOUSE!
TH-THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCIPAL POST...

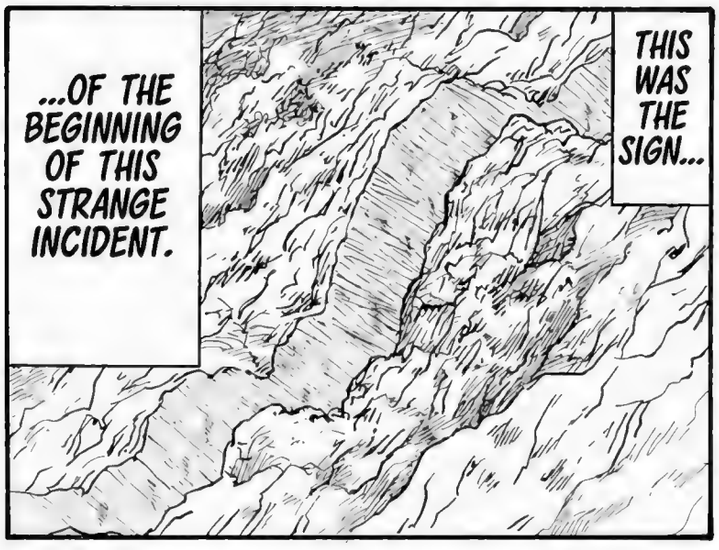
AS HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER AND FRIENDS WATCHED OVER HIM, HE PASSED AWAY LATER THAT EVENING.
...I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT. I'LL DIE SUPPORTING THIS HOUSE.
WH-WHAT!?
LEAVE ME HERE...
DEAR...
DADDY, NO--!
...AND NOW NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW HOW HE ENDED UP GETTING UNDERNEATH IT.
HE STILL REMAINS UNDER THE PRINCIPAL POST...
THE SAD TALE OF THE PRINCIPAL POST: THE END

The Enigma of Amigara Fault


NOT TOO LONG AGO, THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN H—— PREFECTURE.
SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES WERE DEVASTATED.


THE FAULT WAS DEEP AND SEVERAL KILOMETERS LONG.


FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE, A LARGE FAULT WAS DISCOVERED NEAR THE EPICENTER...
...ON THE NORTH SLOPE OF AMIGARA MOUNTAIN.

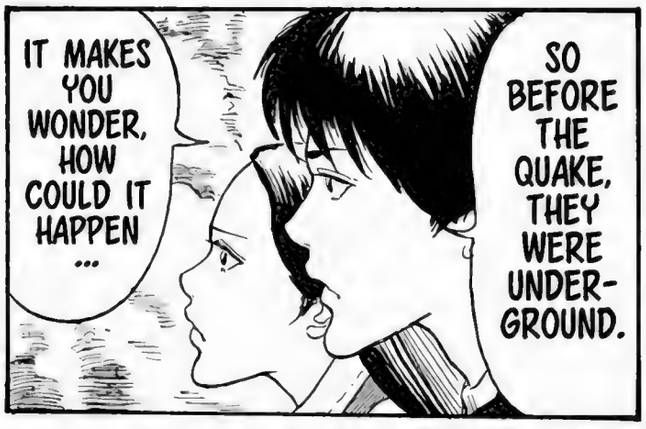

THIS WAS THE SIGN...
...OF THE BEGINNING OF THIS STRANGE INCIDENT.

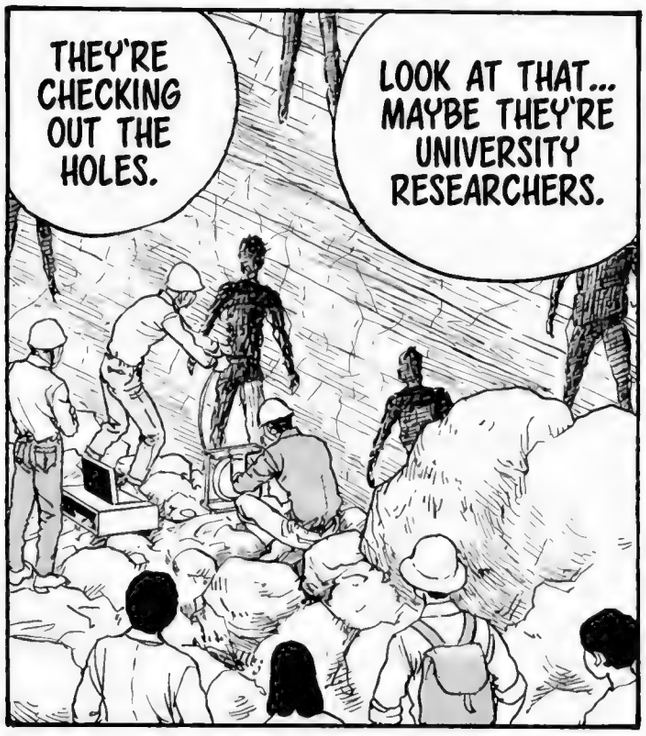
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING ...
AM I STILL ON AMIGARA MOUNTAIN? I'VE BEEN CLIMBING FOR A WHILE...
HMM ...

HEY! HELLO OVER THERE!
I'M OWAKI... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M YOSHIDA.
SO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE FAULT, TOO?
I THOUGHT THAT MUST BE WHY YOU CAME HERE. I MEAN NO OFFENSE, A WOMAN HIKER, ALL ALONE.
I SAW IT ALL ON T.V. IT KIND OF MADE ME RESTLESS...
...WHEN I SAW IT I KNEW I HAD TO GO.
REALLY? IT WAS THE SAME WITH ME.
IT'S A REAL MYSTERY, ISN'T IT?

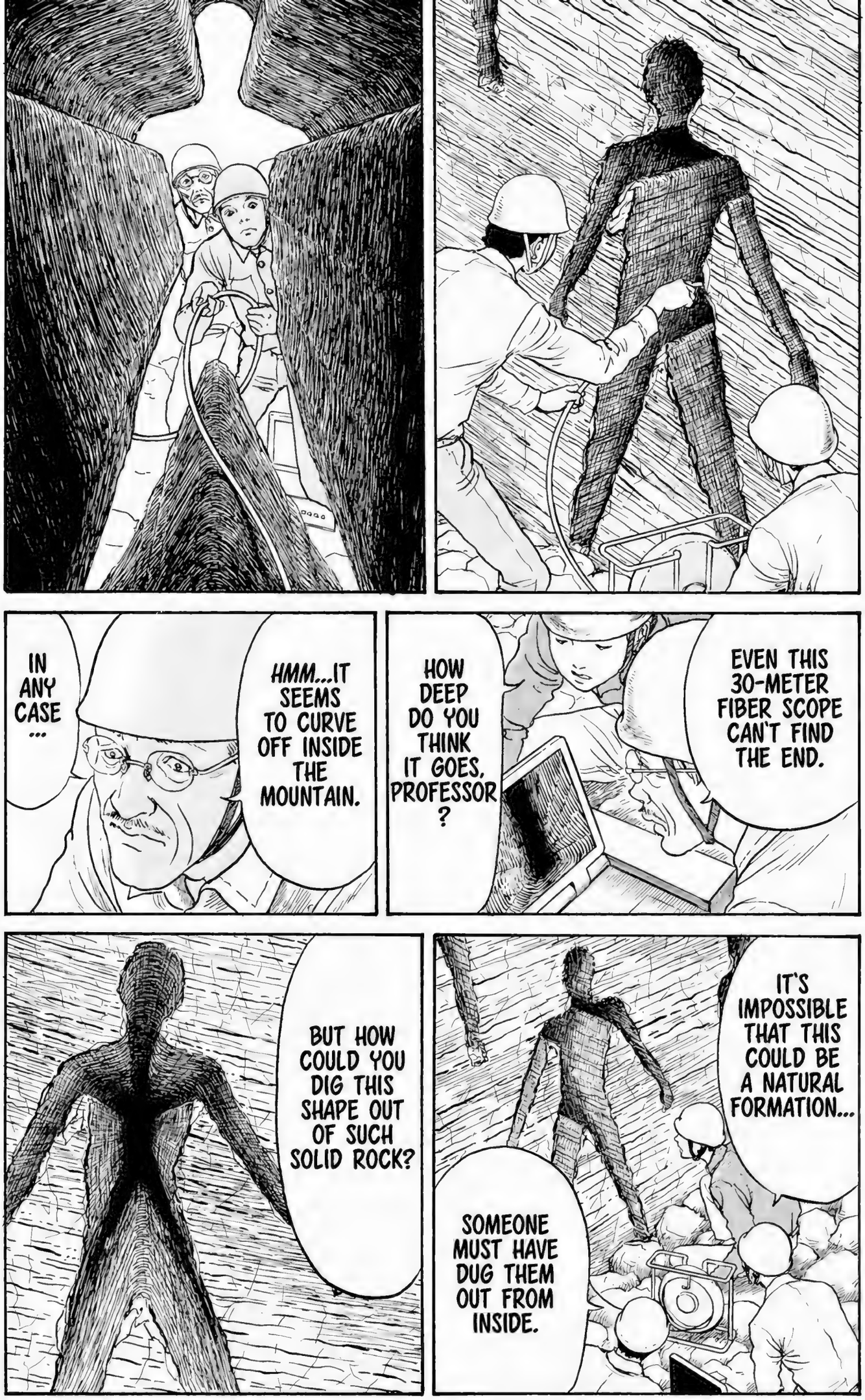
DID YOU HEAR VOICES?
HM?
...IT'S GOT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, NO THE ENTIRE WORLD TRANS-FIXED.
IT'S A WONDER OF NATURE...
MUTTER
MUTTER
IT MUST BE THE OTHERS WHO'VE COME HERE.
LET'S HEAD THAT WAY! I'M SURE WE'RE NEAR THE FAULT.
!
HARVEST
HUFF HUFF...

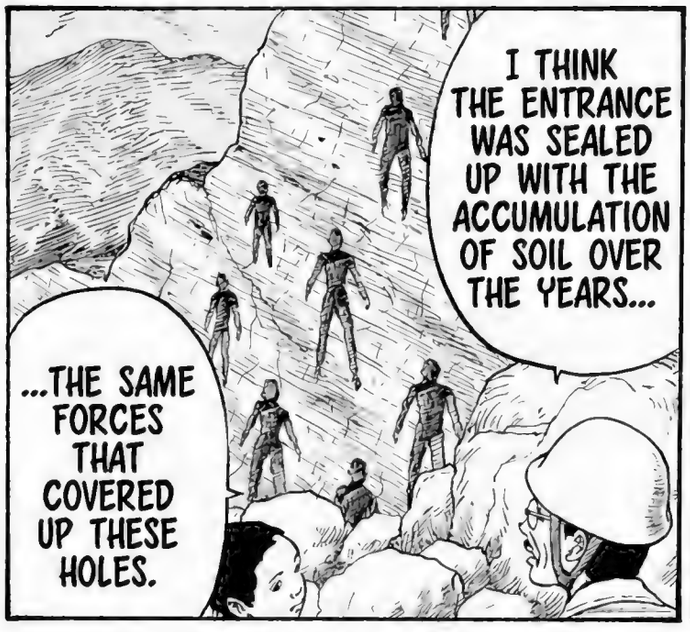
IT'S JUST LIKE HOW IT WAS ON T.V....
...BUT A LOT MORE POWERFUL.

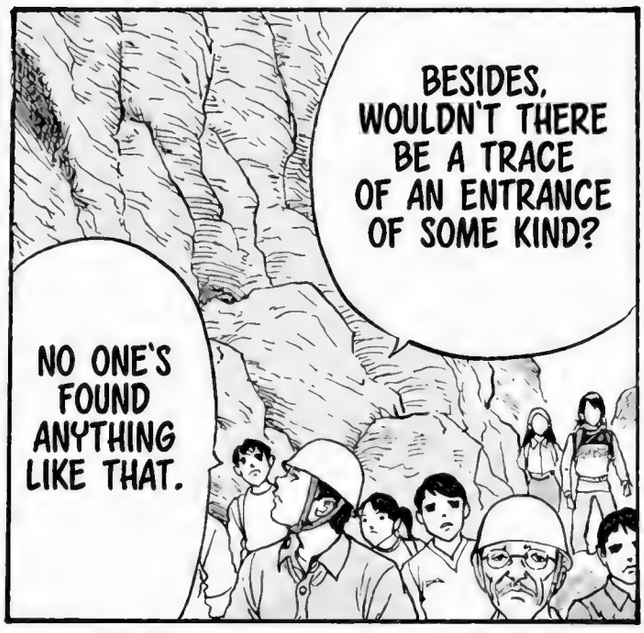

SO BEFORE THE QUAKE, THEY WERE UNDER-GROUND.
IT MAKES YOU WONDER, HOW COULD IT HAPPEN ...

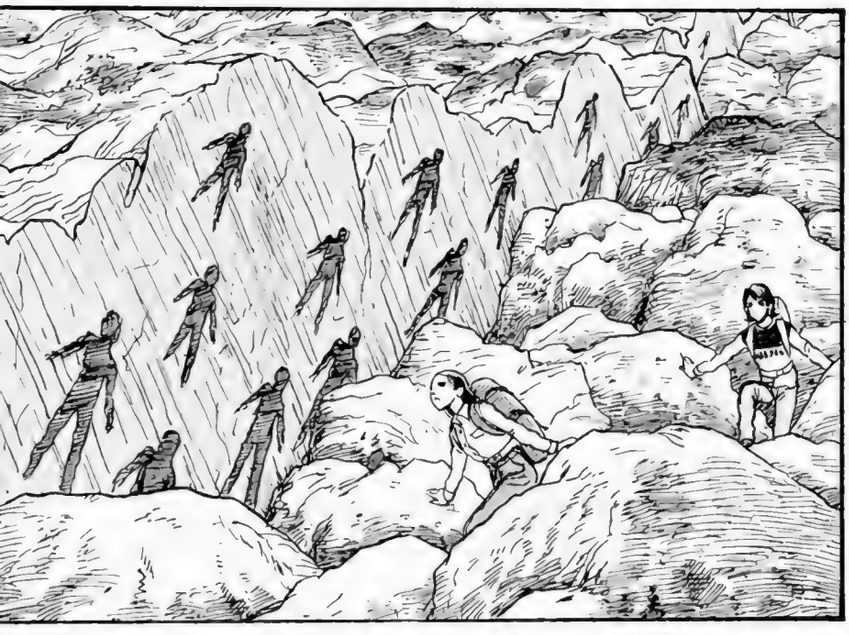

LOOK AT THAT... MAYBE THEY'RE UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS.
THEY'RE CHECKING OUT THE HOLES.

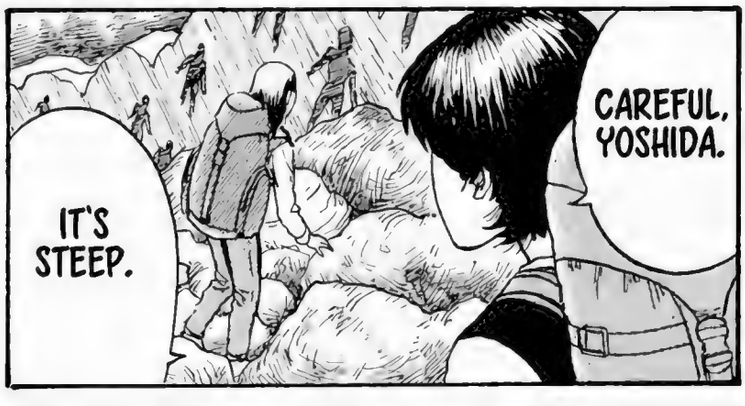
THOUSANDS OF HUMAN-SHAPED HOLES...
...FOUND IN THE FAULT EXPOSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

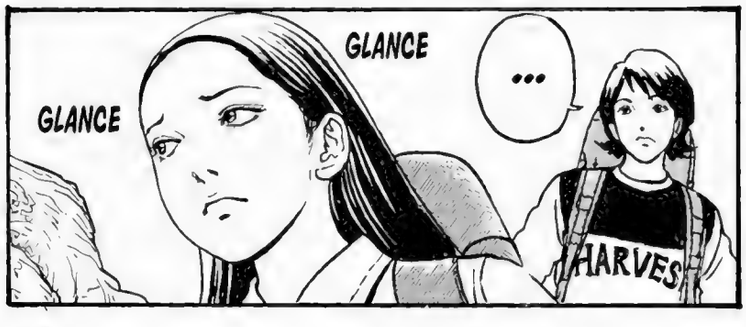

EVEN THIS 30-METER FIBER SCOPE CAN'T FIND THE END.
HOW DEEP DO YOU THINK IT GOES, PROFESSOR?
HMM...IT SEEMS TO CURVE OFF INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN.
IN ANY CASE ...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT THIS COULD BE A NATURAL FORMATION...
SOMEONE MUST HAVE DUG THEM OUT FROM INSIDE.
BUT HOW COULD YOU DIG THIS SHAPE OUT OF SUCH SOLID ROCK?


I THINK THE ENTRANCE WAS SEALED UP WITH THE ACCUMULATION OF SOIL OVER THE YEARS...
...THE SAME FORCES THAT COVERED UP THESE HOLES.


BESIDES, WOULDN'T THERE BE A TRACE OF AN ENTRANCE OF SOME KIND?
NO ONE'S FOUND ANYTHING LIKE THAT.




CAREFUL, YOSHIDA.
IT'S STEEP.


GLANCE
GLANCE
...
HARVES

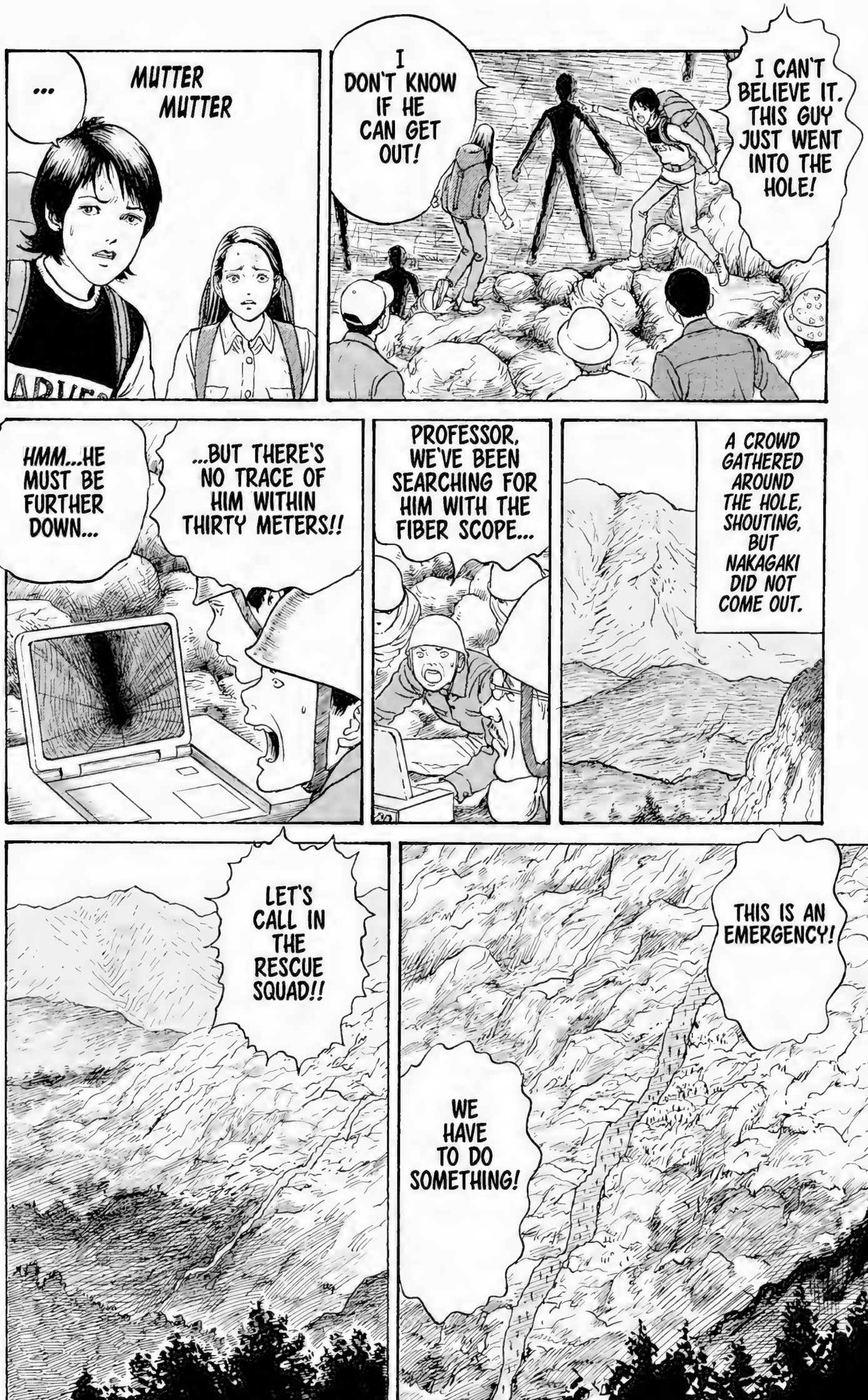
THEN THESE HOLES MUST BE ANCIENT. BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHO HAD THE TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THEM?
AND WHAT PURPOSE DID THEY SERVE...?

WHAT'D YOU SEE?
WHAT ...
I SAW IT ON T.V.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SO I CAME HERE TO MAKE SURE ABOUT IT.
I ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IT ON T.V.
I KNOW I SAW IT...ONE OF THESE HOLES.
I...I SAW IT ON T.V.
...WAS IN MY SHAPE.
IT...
SO WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS HOLE?
BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, THERE ARE SO MANY HOLES I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT IS...

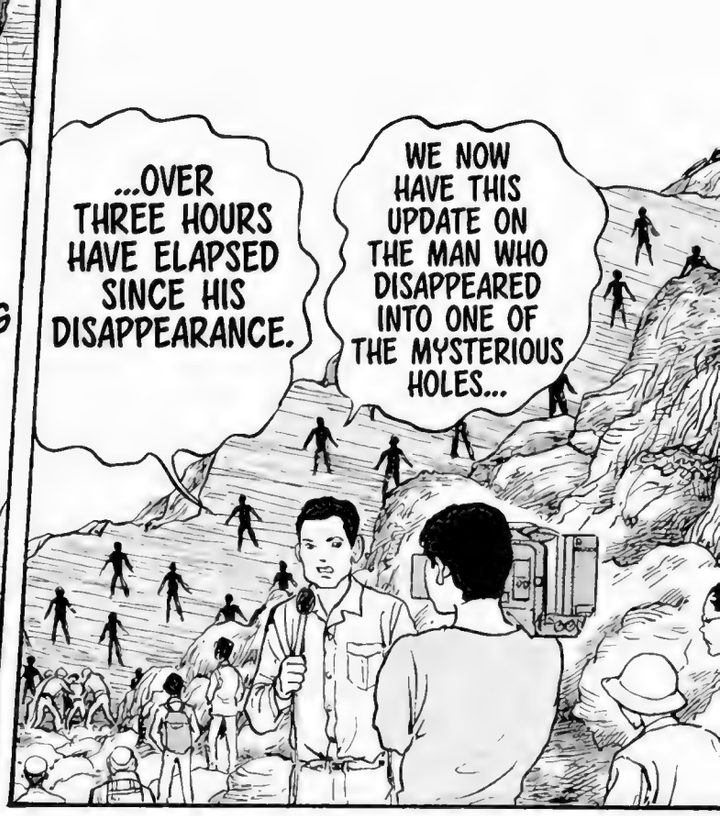
IT WAS *BASED* ON ME. I SWEAR, I'M SERIOUS!
...THAT HOLE WAS MY SILHOUETTE!
IT WAS IDENTICAL... NO, IT WENT BEYOND THAT...
WHAT?
HOW COULD THEY HAVE BASED IT ON YOU? THAT'S KIND OF EGOTISTICAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
THESE HOLES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SO, YOU TOO...
I KNEW IT WAS ME. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MAKE SENSE!
I'M NOT JOKING! DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!

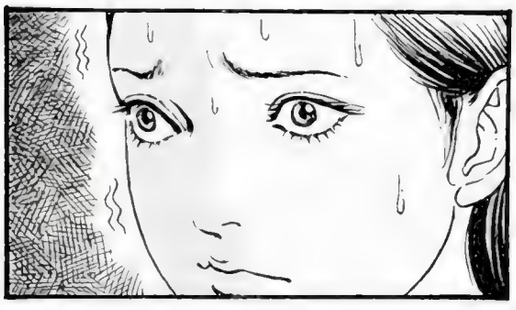
MY NAME'S NAKAGAKI.
AND YOU'RE...
...I CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR MY HOLE.
I FELT THE SAME WAY... AFTER I SAW IT ON T.V....
...I FINALLY FOUND MINE.
AND...
WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOR OUR HOLES.
IT'S AN UMBELIEVABLE PHENOMENON. MOST OF US CAME HERE FOR THE EXACT SAME REASON.
HMM? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU.
...SEE HOW PERFECTLY I FIT?
THIS IS IT...

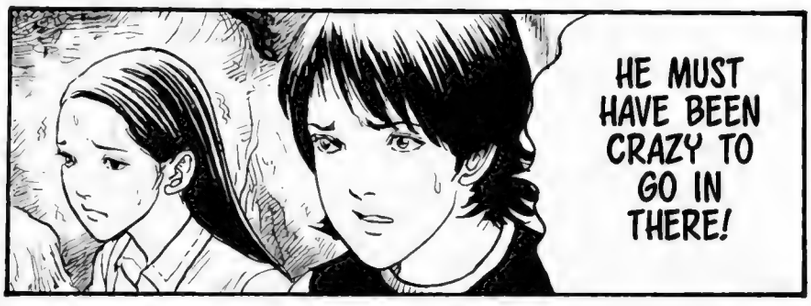
SHF
SHF
I'LL PROVE THIS IS MY HOLE RIGHT NOW.
JUST WATCH ME!
HEY... WHAT!?
HEY...
SSLL
SLIP
OH MY GOD! HEY! COME BACK!
HEY!
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!!
HEY, COME BACK HERE!!

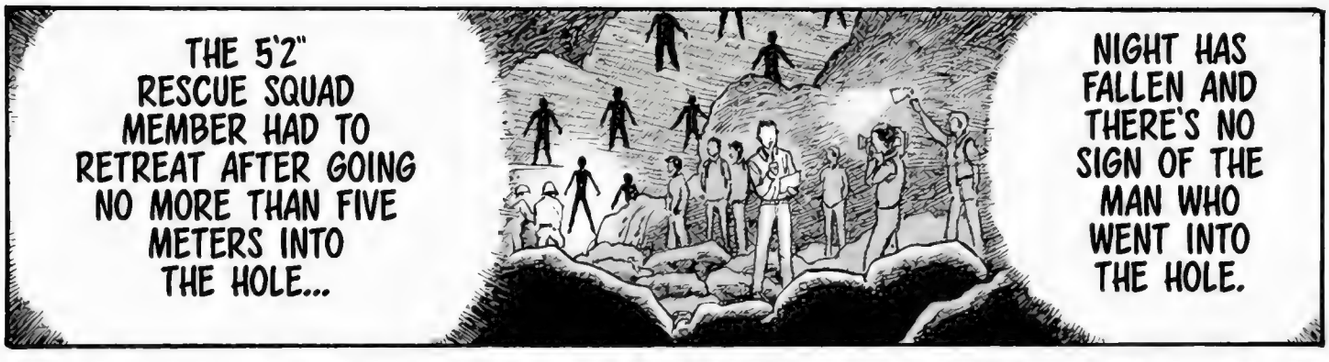

...
MUTTER MUTTER
I DON'T KNOW IF HE CAN GET OUT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THIS GUY JUST WENT INTO THE HOLE!
HMM...HE MUST BE FURTHER DOWN...
...BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM WITHIN THIRTY METERS!!
PROFESSOR, WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM WITH THE FIBER SCOPE...
A CROWD GATHERED AROUND THE HOLE, SHOUTING, BUT NAKAGAKI DID NOT COME OUT.
LET'S CALL IN THE RESCUE SQUAD!!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!

ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS, 5'2" TALL, IS TRYING TO GO IN...
A RESCUE SQUAD IS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE HOLE.


...OVER THREE HOURS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE.
WE NOW HAVE THIS UPDATE ON THE MAN WHO DISAPPEARED INTO ONE OF THE MYSTERIOUS HOLES...

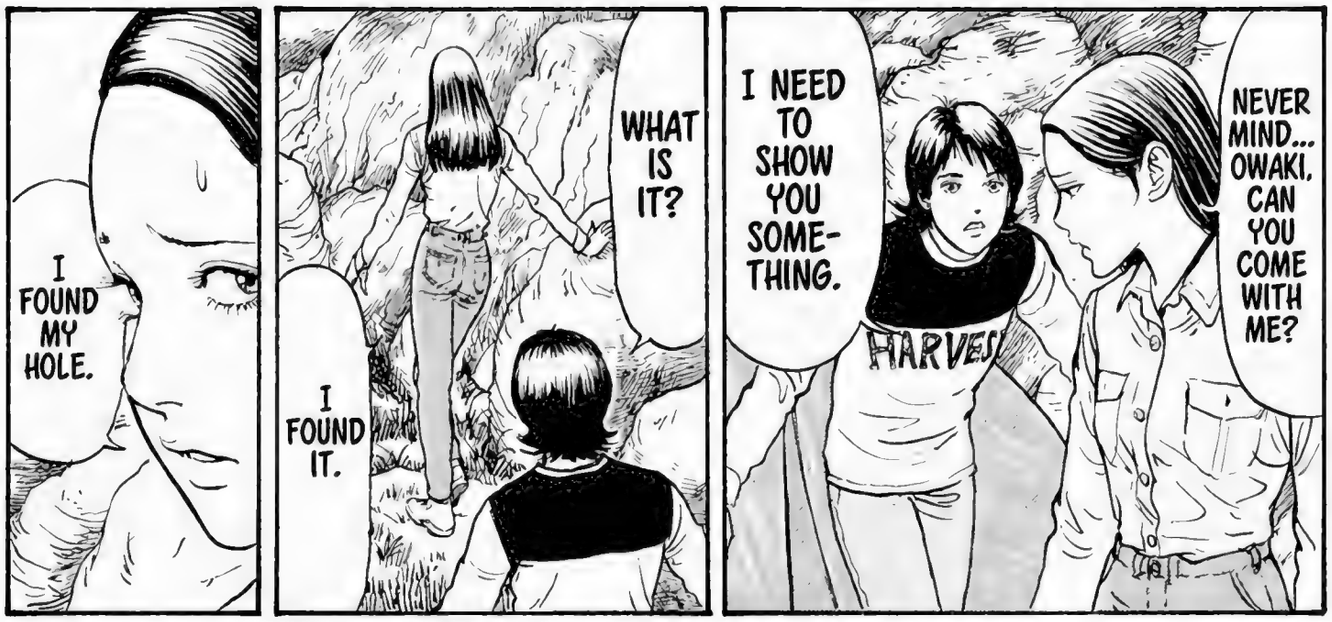


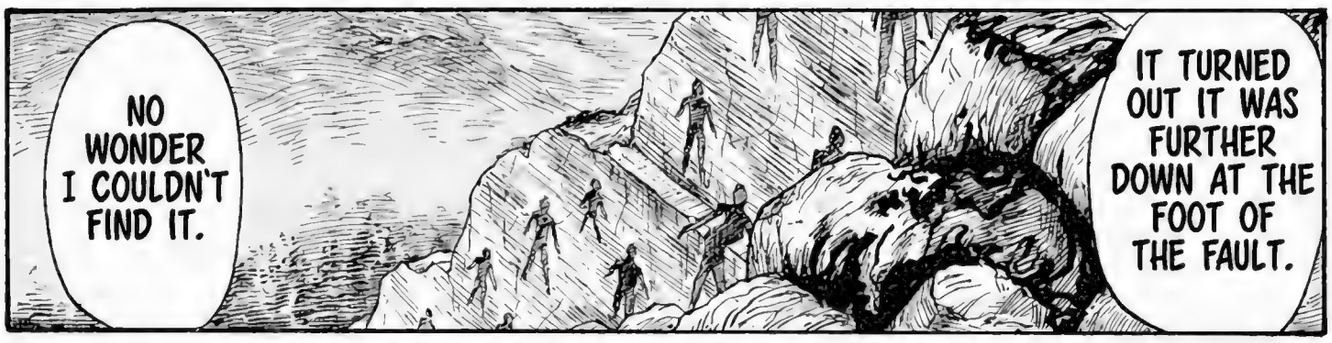

HE MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY TO GO IN THERE!

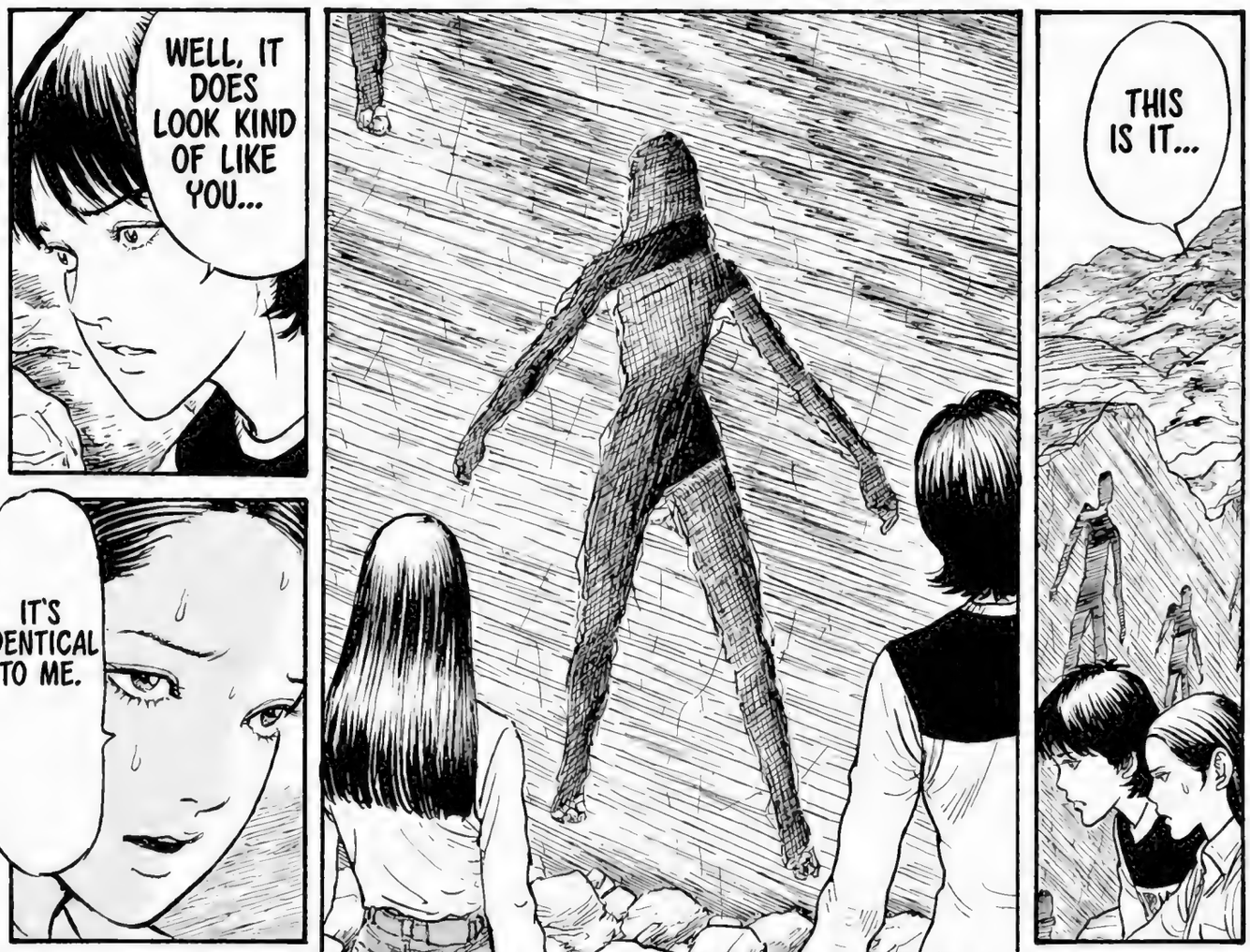

THE 5'2" RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER HAD TO RETREAT AFTER GOING NO MORE THAN FIVE METERS INTO THE HOLE...
NIGHT HAS FALLEN AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE MAN WHO WENT INTO THE HOLE.

I WAS COMPLETELY TRAPPED IN PITCH BLACKNESS, HUNDREDS OF METERS INTO THE HOLE.
THAT NIGHT I HAD A NIGHTMARE.
IN MY DREAM, I WAS NAKAGAKI.
...THE EARTHQUAKE. THE HOLE MUST HAVE BEEN DEFORMED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. SO I CAN'T MOVE...
I-I CAN'T MOVE...
I'M STUCK ...
AGGH... GGH... GGH..
ANYONE! HELP ME!
...S-SOME-ONE!

...IT'S MORNING... IT WAS A NIGHTMARE...
THANK GOD...
AAGGH!
...I'LL GO FIND OUT...
OR MAYBE HE GOT RESCUED...
IS HE STILL DOWN THERE, WRITHING NAKED IN THAT HOLE?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO NAKAGAKI?
YOU'RE UP ALREADY?
HE'S STILL GONE.
...


NEVER MIND... OWAKI, CAN YOU COME WITH ME?
I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING.
HARVEST
WHAT IS IT?
I FOUND IT.
I FOUND MY HOLE.


IT TURNED OUT IT WAS FURTHER DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE FAULT.
NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND IT.


THIS IS IT...
WELL, IT DOES LOOK KIND OF LIKE YOU...
IT'S IDENTICAL TO ME.

WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?
YOSHIDA, WHAT IS IT?
HARVEST
...THIS IS MY TUNNEL... THEY DUG IT FOR ME...
I'M SCARED... I'M SO SCARED...
THIS IS MY TUNNEL!
NO...
IT JUST HAPPENS TO LOOK A LITTLE LIKE YOU!
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE !!
...I'LL BE TRAPPED IN THIS HOLE!
AND WHEN I GO IN...
IT'S BEEN WAITING FOR ME TO ENTER. ALL THAT TIME WHEN IT WAS UNDER-GROUND!
IT WAS MADE... MADE FOR ME TO ENTER!

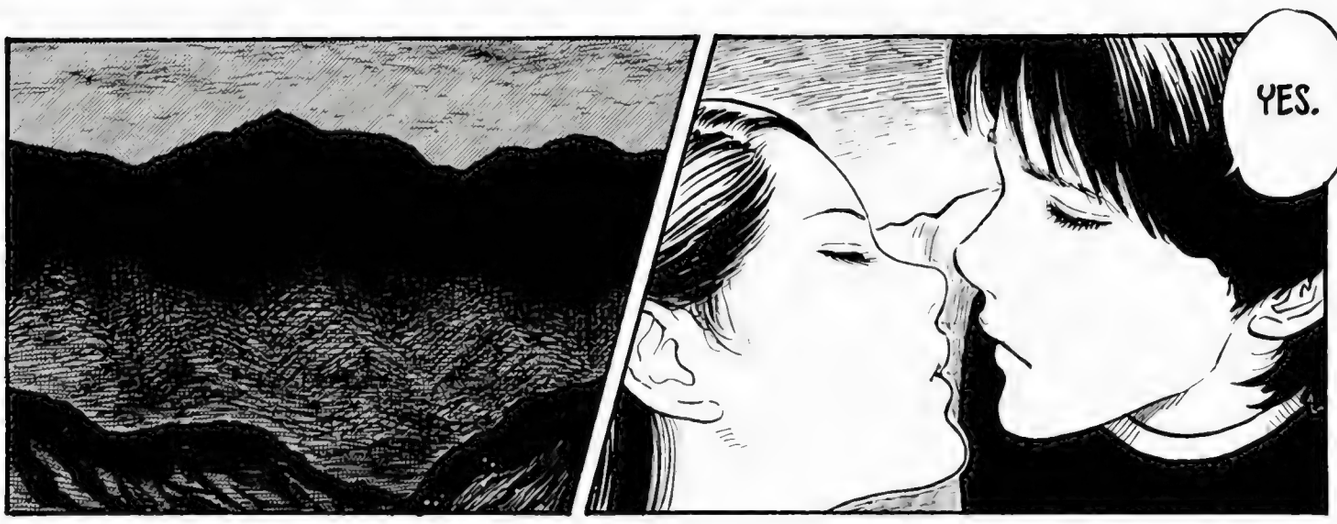
IT HAS BEEN A FULL DAY SINCE THE MAN WHO WALKED INTO THE HOLE...
...HAS DISAPPEARED. HE HAS VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
HEY...
LOOK OVER THERE!
WHAT'S THAT KID DOING?
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? GET DOWN HERE BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF!!
TH-THIS IS MY HOLE!
IT WAS MADE FOR ME!

H-HEY!!
TELL MY MOM GOOD-BYE!
I HAVE TO GO IN!
...AND ENTER THE HOLES...!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! OTHERS MIGHT FOLLOW HIM NOW...
S-STOP!! SOME-BODY STOP HIM!
QUICK! GET THEM OUT!
HERE, TOO!!
LOOK OVER HERE!! SOMEONE ELSE JUST WENT IN!
OH, NO--!!

I'M GOING TO DIE THERE, INSIDE THAT HOLE!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ENTER THAT HOLE.
YOSHIDA !!
NO... NO! I'M SCARED!
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
DON'T WORRY !
LOOK OVER THERE...
IT'S NO GOOD...
THAT'S WHAT IT'S SAYING.
"COME INTO ME."
MY SILHOUETTE'S SAYING, "COME IN."
IT'S JUST GAPING AT ME!!

I'LL FILL THIS HOLE UP!
JUST WATCH ME!!
OH GOD! OH GOD I'M SCARED!
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU'RE SO SCARED...
I'LL HELP YOU.
GLATTA
GLATTA
...
NOW YOU'RE SAFE.
THERE... SEE?

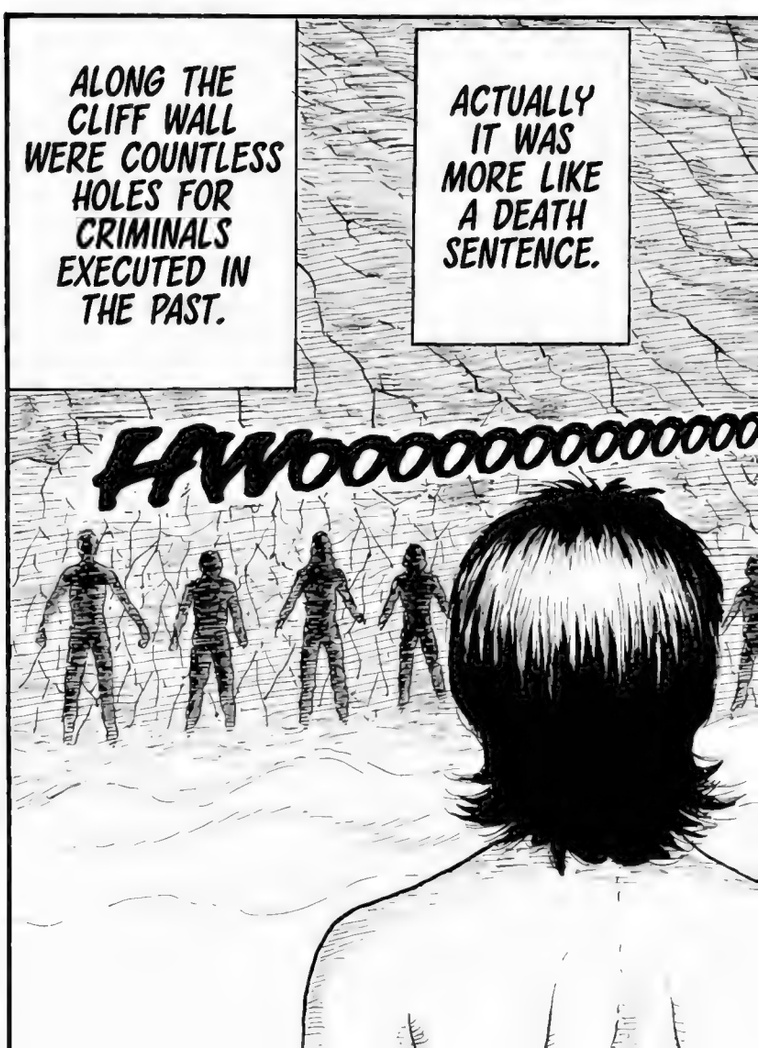
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO YOUR TENT?
...MY PARENTS DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME... NEITHER DID MY FRIENDS...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE... EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD...
DON'T WORRY, I'M HERE WITH YOU.
I'M TOO SCARED TO BE ALONE.
NO...
REALLY ?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, THOUGH, NOW THAT I'M WITH YOU.
NOTHING COULD BE LONELIER THAN THAT HOLE.
DO YOU SEE, YOSHIDA?...YOU'RE AFRAID OF THAT HOLE BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN LONELY.


YES.

IT WAS ANOTHER TIME...I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG AGO.
I HAD COMMITTED A HORRIBLE CRIME, AND I WAS ABOUT TO BE PUNISHED.
SHH

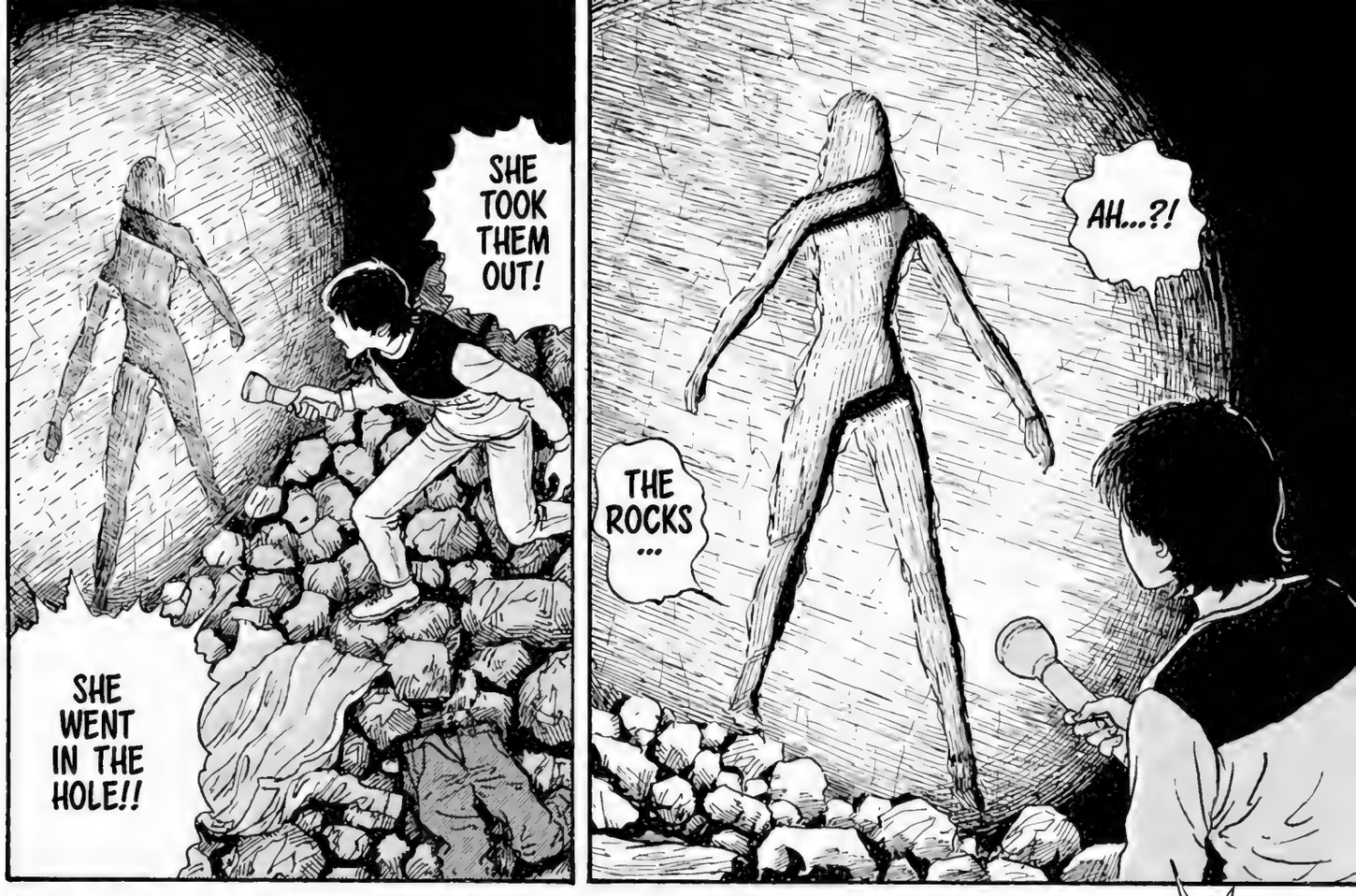
THAT NIGHT I HAD ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.

I WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THIS HOLE.
WHEN A PERSON COMMITTED A CRIME OF MY MAGNITUDE, THE PEOPLE IN THE PAST WOULD DIG HUMAN-SHAPED HOLES...

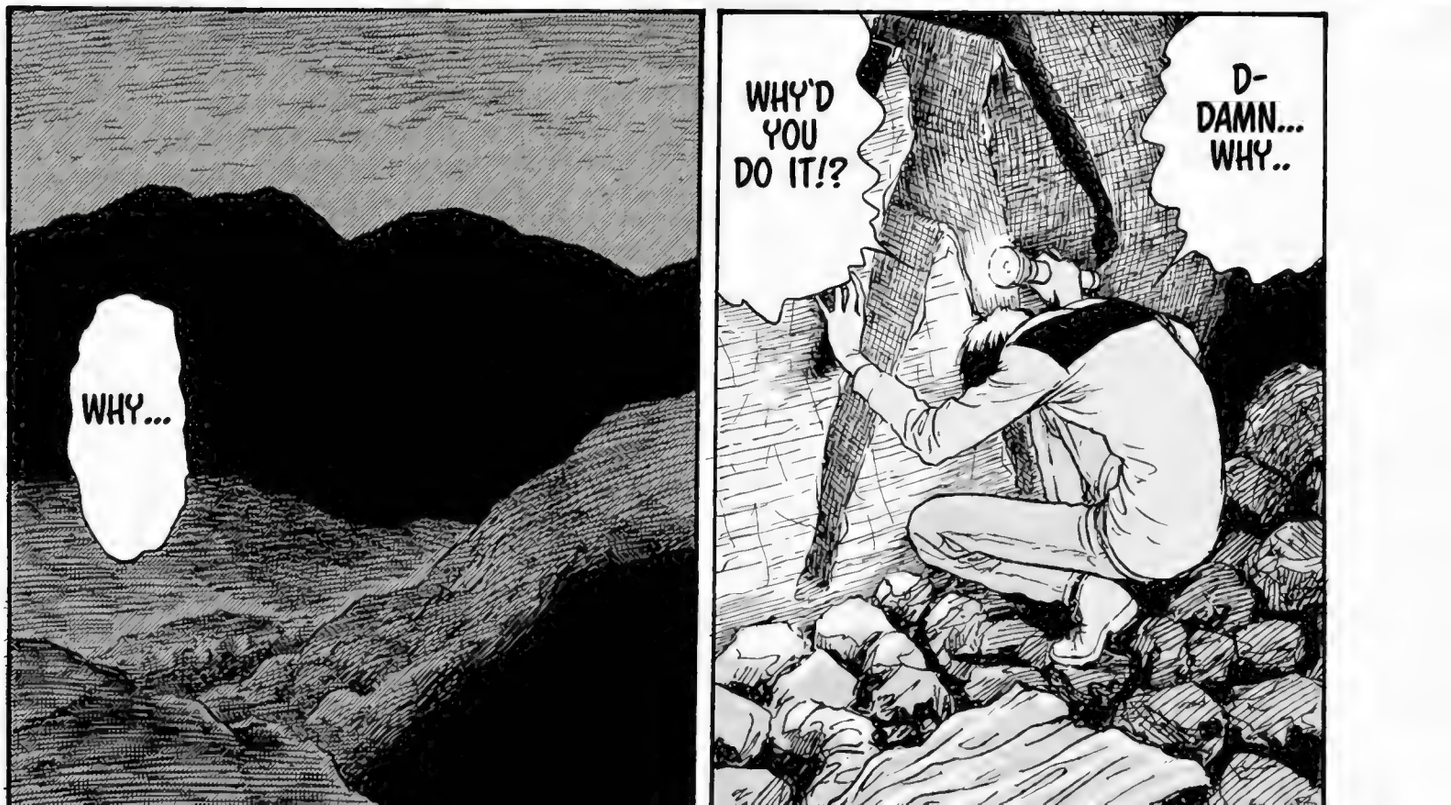

ALONG THE CLIFF WALL WERE COUNTLESS HOLES FOR CRIMINALS EXECUTED IN THE PAST.
ACTUALLY IT WAS MORE LIKE A DEATH SENTENCE.
HWoooooooooooo

...I WAS SLIDING SLOWLY, SLOWLY DOWN... MOVING FORWARD WITH EACH MOVEMENT I MADE.
THE WALLS WERE CARVED IN A WAY THAT KEPT YOU FROM RETREATING...
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE FORWARD, INTO THE CLAUSTRO-PHOBIA ALL AROUND.
I FELT THE COLD STONE ON ALL SIDES AROUND ME.
...STRETCHING IT UNTIL IT SHOULD HAVE TORN OFF.
UNHH... UNHH...!!
TO MY HORROR, THE PART CORRESPONDING TO MY NECK ONLY GOT LONGER AND LONGER...
URR...
I FELT A TUG ON MY NECK.
AND WITH TIME...
GYAAGHH!
SOMEONE! ANYONE! HELP ME!
THE HOLE STRETCHED OUT INTO SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE...!
NO...NOT JUST MY NECK...MY ARMS, LEGS, AND TORSO...

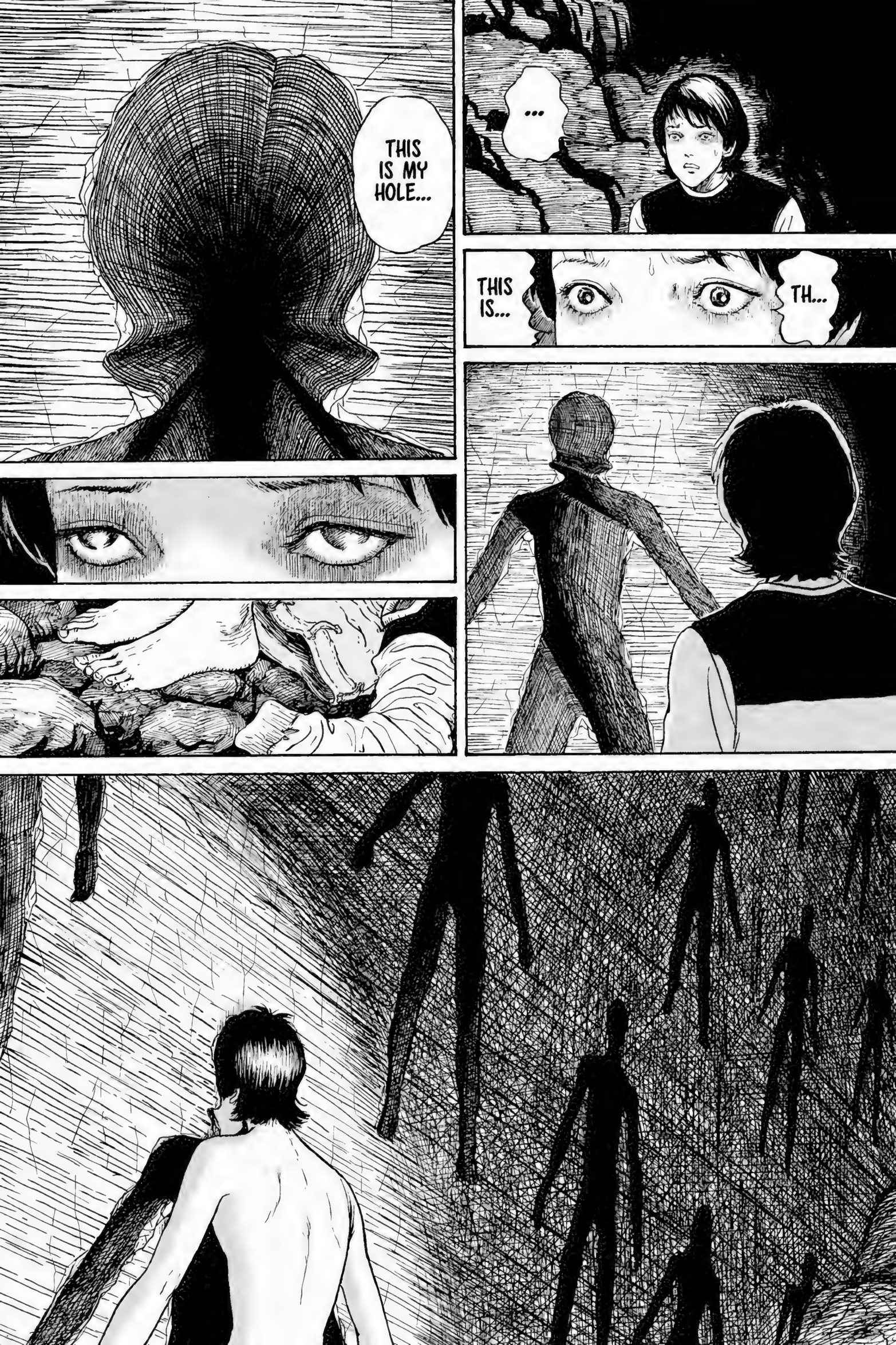
HUH!?
ANOTHER NIGHT-MARE...
GASP... GASP...
AAAGH!
WHERE DID SHE GO?
N-NO...
HARVEST
SHE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR IN THE DARK.


SHE TOOK THEM OUT!
SHE WENT IN THE HOLE!!
AH...?!
THE ROCKS ...

...
COME BACK!!
HEY YOSHIDA !


WHY...
WHY'D YOU DO IT!?
D- DAMN... WHY..

BOMP
BOMP
BOMP
BOMP


THIS IS MY HOLE...
...
THIS IS...
TH...

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...
PROFES-SOR... HERE IT IS!!
JUST AS THAT CLIMBER INFORMED US.
SO THERE WAS A FAULT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!!
HMM... I'M SURE THIS WAS FORMED BY THE EARTHQUAKE AS WELL.
BUT UNLIKE THE ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE, THIS ONE'S QUITE SMALL.
AHA!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
THERE ARE HOLES, BUT THEY'RE NOT HUMAN SHAPED...
...DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY FORM...

UHH...
...
YAAAHH!
I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK.
I WONDER IF THEY'RE CONNECTED TO THE ONES OVER THERE.
I-I SEE SOMETHING !!
SI- SIR!!
IT'S SLOWLY COMING THIS WAY!!
DRP.. DRP.. DRP.. DRP..
THE ENIGMA OF AMIGARA FAULT: THE END

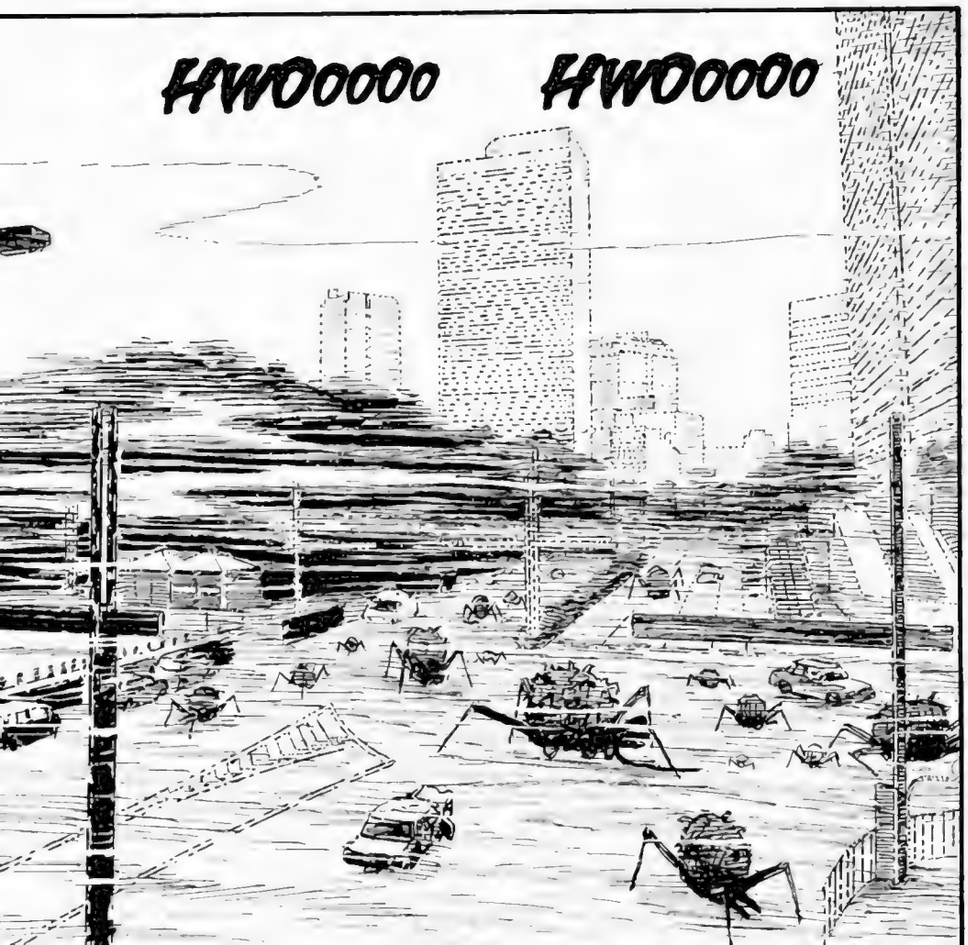
KAIJU 8

19/The Death-Stench World

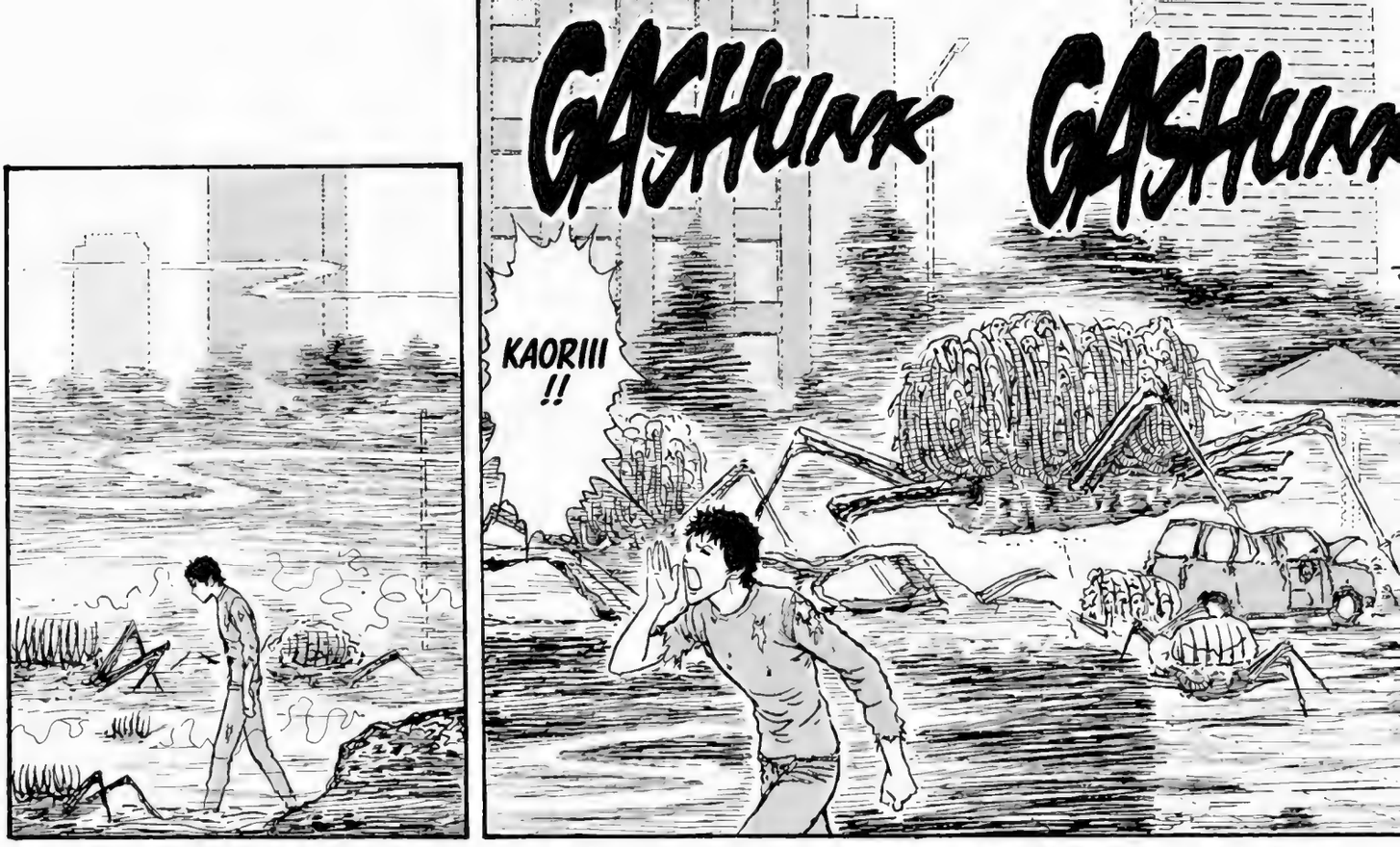
KAORI!!
G-
G-
G-
PSSHOOo
TAKE MY HAND!
RRRRRRRRMMMMMM

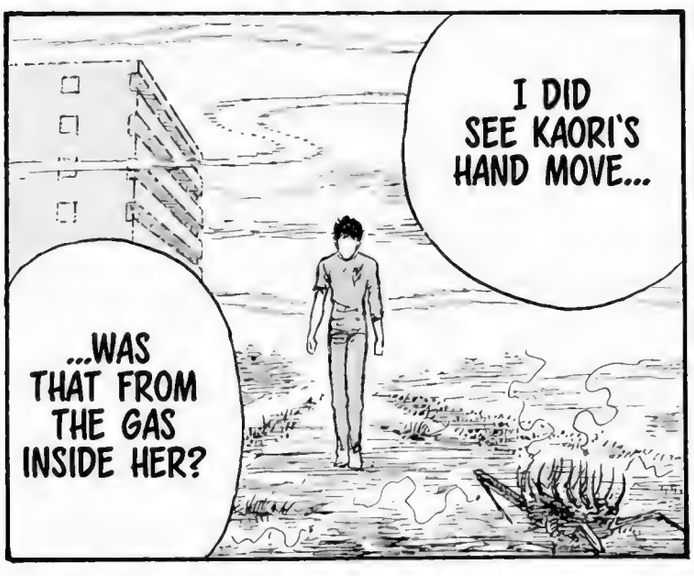
RRRRRRRRRRRRMMM

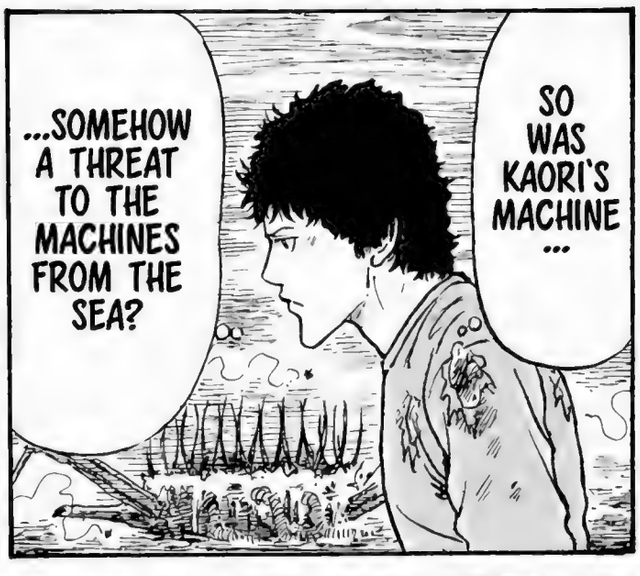
RRRRRMM


HWOOOOO
HWOOOOO

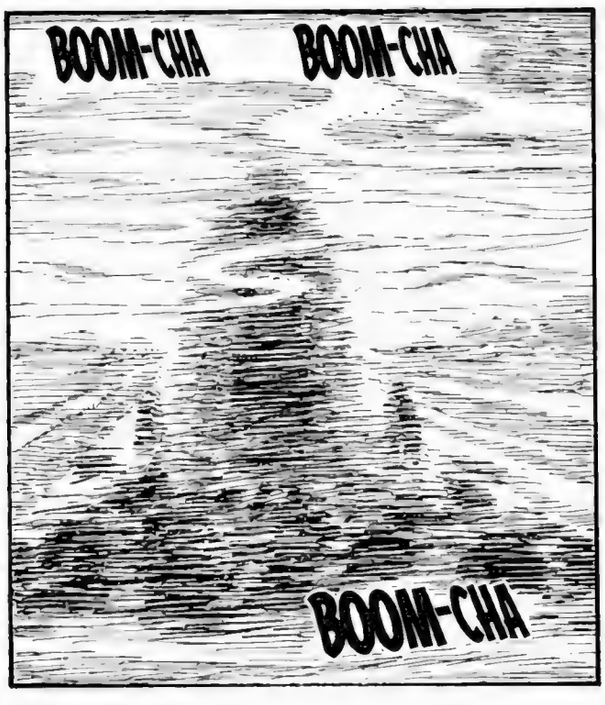
KAORI...

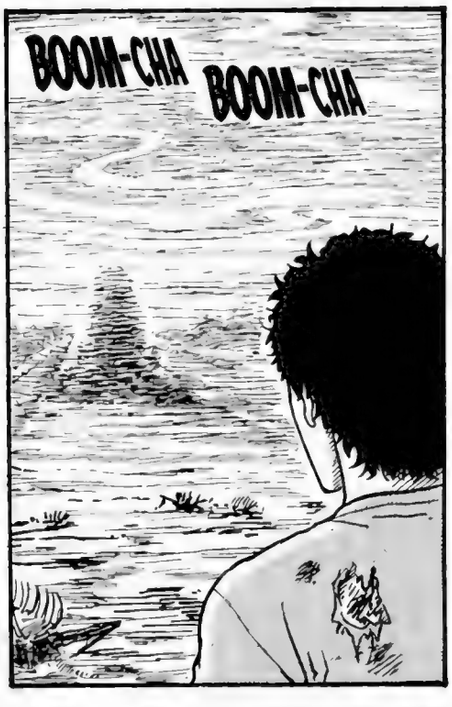

GASHUNK
GASHUNK
KAORIII !!

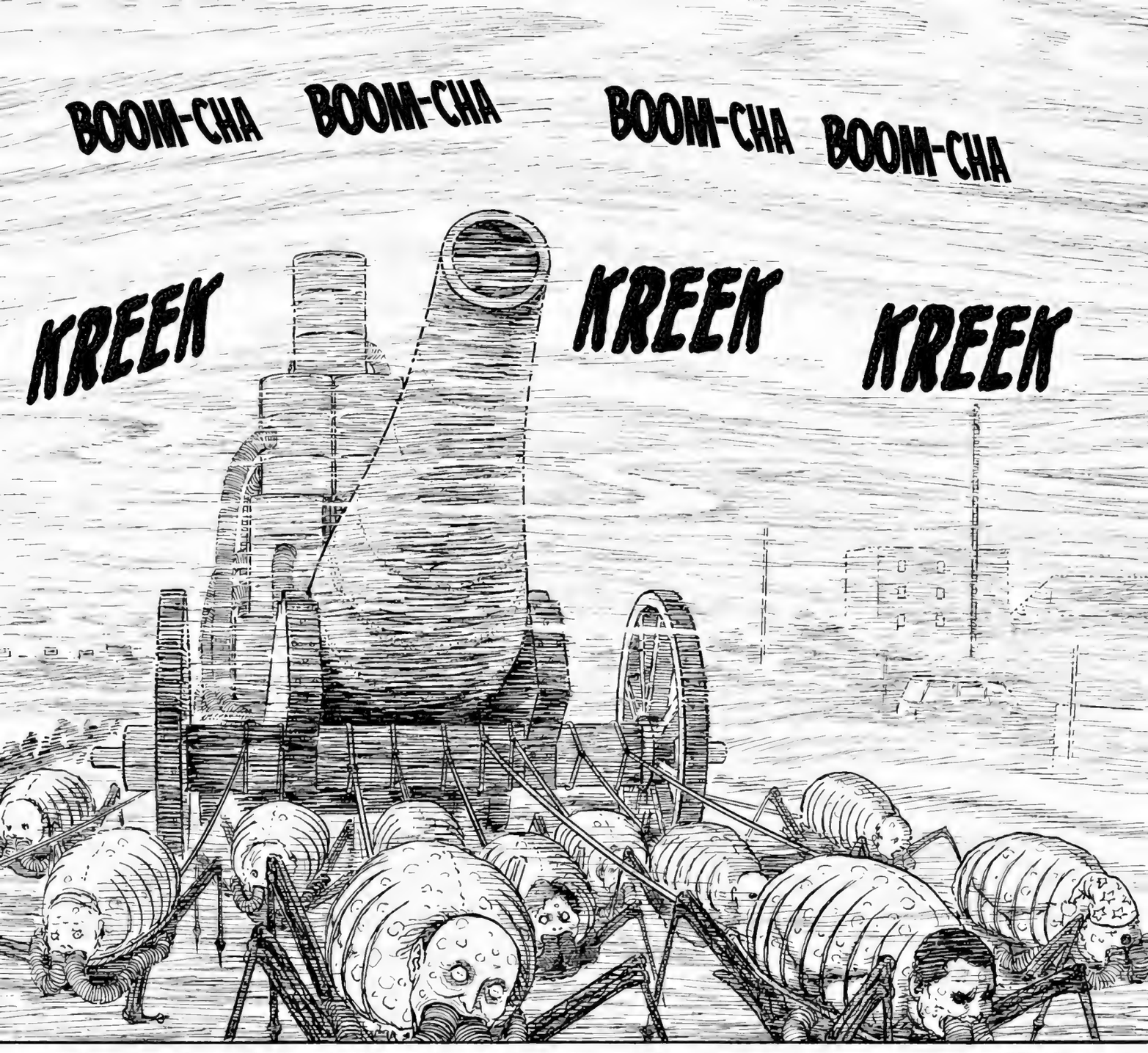

I DID SEE KAORI'S HAND MOVE...
...WAS THAT FROM THE GAS INSIDE HER?


SO WAS KAORI'S MACHINE ...
...SOMEHOW A THREAT TO THE MACHINES FROM THE SEA?

!?

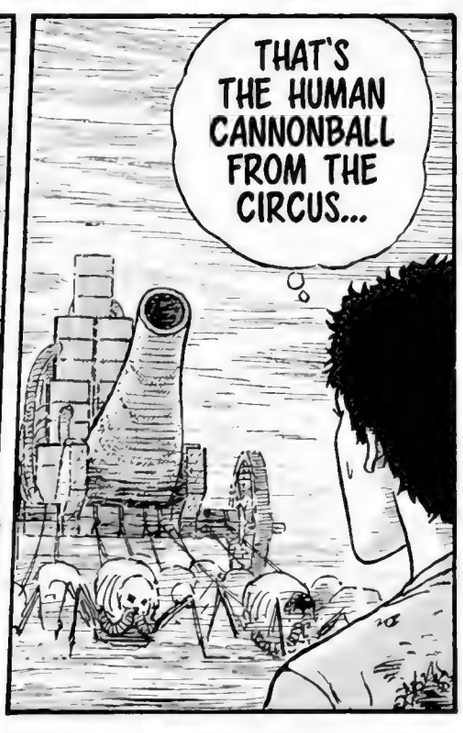

BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA


BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA


BOOM-CHA BOOM-CHA
BOOM-CHA BOOM-CHA
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK

BAM!

FIRE!


THAT'S THE HUMAN CANNONBALL FROM THE CIRCUS...

BOOM

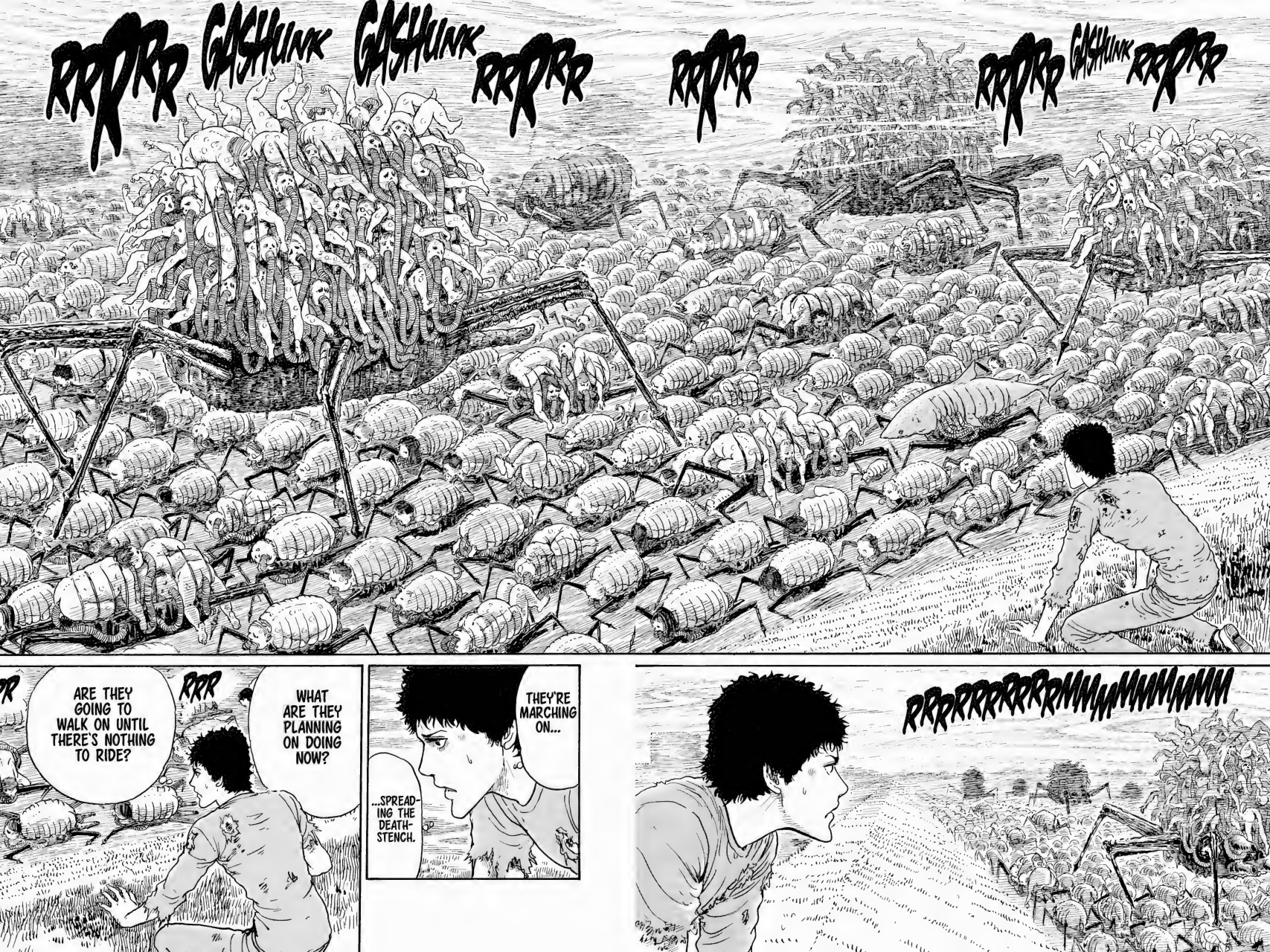
HEY...
...THAT'S !!
BOOM
FIRE!
Fooom

BFFF
FWIPP
PSHOOOO
BANZAI! BANZAIII!
DIRECT HIT!

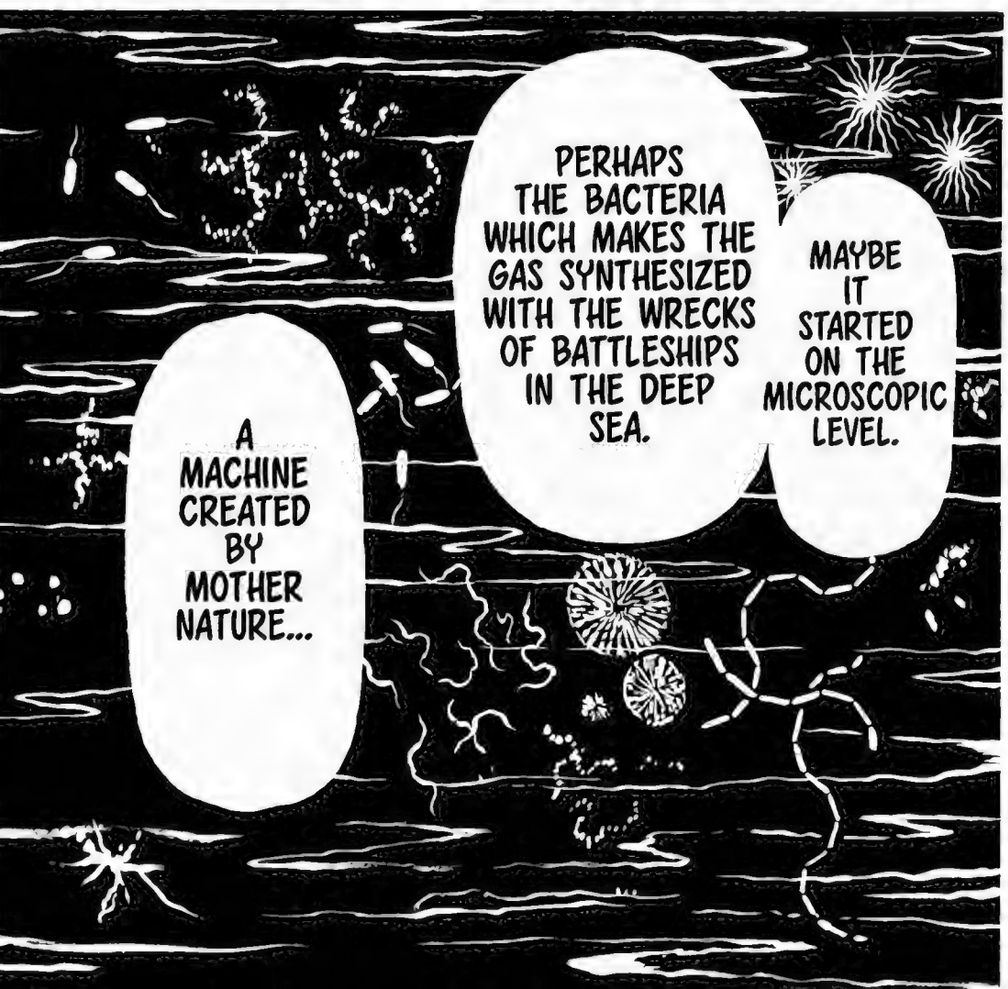
CRASH
WOOOOOO
FWOOSH

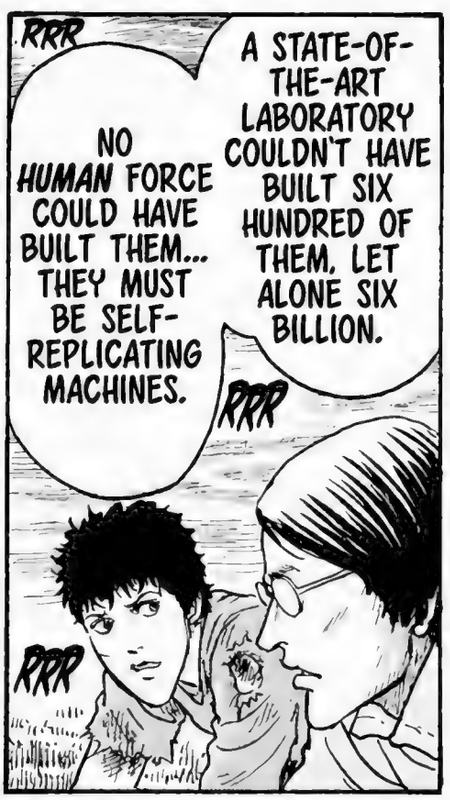
SHHHOOOOOOOO
WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH

UNCLE ...
...
...THE DEATH-STENCH IS EVERYWHERE...
...JAPAN'S IN RUINS...
RRR RRR RRR RRR
RRR RRR RRR RRR


RRRRR GASHUNK GASHUNK RRRRR
RRRRR
RRRRR GASHUNK RRRRR
RR
ARE THEY GOING TO WALK ON UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING TO RIDE?
RRR
WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING ON DOING NOW?
THEY'RE MARCHING ON...
...SPREADING THE DEATH-STENCH.
RRRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMMM

WERE THEY WEAPONS DEVELOPED BY JAPAN'S MILITARY DURING THE WAR, LIKE UNCLE KOYANAGI'S FATHER CLAIMED?
EVEN SO, WHO MADE ALL THESE MACHINES?
DOES THE GAS HAVE A WILL OF ITS OWN?
RRR
RRR
SO WHAT IS MAKING THEM DO THIS?
YOU WON'T FIND A SINGLE SCREW, NOT EVEN A SOLDER JOINT INSIDE THOSE MACHINES.
WHAT !?
THEY WEREN'T MANMADE... THERE'S NO OTHER ANSWER.

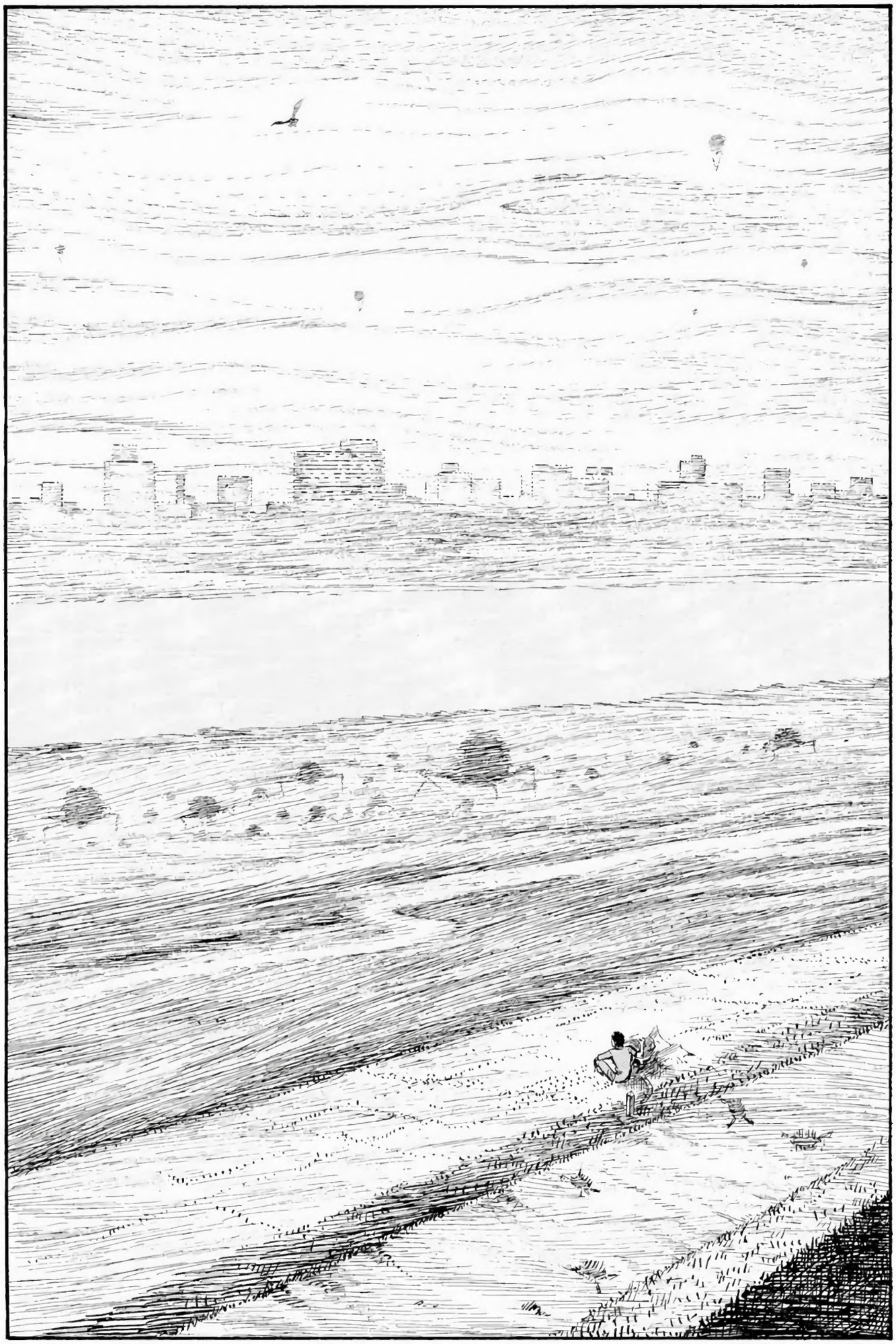

A MACHINE CREATED BY MOTHER NATURE...
PERHAPS THE BACTERIA WHICH MAKES THE GAS SYNTHESIZED WITH THE WRECKS OF BATTLESHIPS IN THE DEEP SEA.
MAYBE IT STARTED ON THE MICROSCOPIC LEVEL.


RRR
NO HUMAN FORCE COULD HAVE BUILT THEM... THEY MUST BE SELF-REPLICATING MACHINES.
A STATE-OF-THE-ART LABORATORY COULDN'T HAVE BUILT SIX HUNDRED OF THEM, LET ALONE SIX BILLION.
RRR
RRR

WE'RE FROM KYOTO UNIVERSITY.
AND... YOU ARE...
YOU DON'T APPEAR TO BE INFECTED.
NEITHER ARE WE. WE MUST BE IMMUNE.
...
YOU THINK THAT'S TOO FAR-FETCHED ...?
WE CAN'T GIVE UP, NO MATTER HOW FEW OF US ARE LEFT.
DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US?
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
WE'RE CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY TO WIPE OUT THE GAS GERM.
THE HUMAN RACE IS ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION. BUT IF WE CAN DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-VIRUS THEN WE CAN FIGHT BACK!
RRR
RRR

KAORI
...
...HERE YOU ARE...
HOW HORRIBLE... YOU WERE BURNT...
PLEASE GO ON...
...I'LL CATCH UP LATER...

YOU'RE ...
YOU'RE FINALLY FREE FROM THE SMELL.
...YOU DON'T SMELL ANYMORE...
KAORI...



GYO=THE END

Bonus
Stories